

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 300

FRIDAY DECEMBER 17, 2010

www.saipantribune.com 50¢

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## OPINION METER

### This week's poll:

Do you support a merger of the Covenant Party and the Republican Party?

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to cast your vote.

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## More rebate, refund checks in offing

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

**C**hristmas or New Year may be jollier for hundreds of taxpayers, as the Fitial administration said additional rebate and refund checks totaling up to \$700,000 could be out before the end of 2010.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said while the government was short by some \$2 million in the rebate trust account as of last month, they have been "paying slowly" as money comes in.

"We are trying to see if we could issue some more rebate and refund, maybe half a million to \$700,000 before the end of the year," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

A Garapan resident said he filed his tax re-

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Inos

## Mixed verdicts in drug trafficking case of 2 men

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

After deliberating for three days, a Superior Court jury has found two suspects facing "ice" trafficking charges guilty of some of the charges but acquitted them on other charges.

In a unanimous verdict yesterday,

the six jurors found Ignacio A. Deleon Guerrero Sr. guilty of conspiracy to trafficking of a controlled substance ("ice") and illegal possession of a controlled substance (marijuana).

He was acquitted, however, on two counts of trafficking of a controlled substance ("ice") and two counts of

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## No House sessions until January 2011

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

After postponing sessions four times in just about a week, the House leadership said yesterday that the next session will be held in January 2011.

Acting House Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday that the postponement of sessions until next month "will allow time for the committees to work on all introduced bills and prepare reports on findings and recommendations" that will be presented at the next session.

**See NO HOUSE on Page 4**



Ogumoro



### IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR

Christmas balls hanging from small trees in front of the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe add colors to the holiday season, despite the CNMI's worst financial condition since the birth of its tourism.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

## How to give love this Christmas? Let us count the many ways

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
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REPORTER

While Christmas is the season of giving, most of us seldom remember the less

fortunate, those who will get no presents come Dec. 25. This holiday season, embrace the joyous spirit of giving by sharing your blessings with those in need. *Saipan Tribune* has summed up for its

readers the many ways they can spread some holiday cheer during this most wonderful time of the year. Go ahead and give someone a memorable Christmas this 2010.

### 2010 Christmas Toy Drive

The 2010 Christmas Toy Drive, initiated by Marianas Health Services, aims to collect 1,000 non-violent toys to be

**See HOW TO on Page 4**



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## Masked man stages armed robbery at poker arcade

A masked man robbed at knifepoint the attendant of a poker arcade in Puerto Rico Sunday night.

NMI Crime Stoppers Program coordinator Police Officer Jason Tarkong identified the arcade as the Poker Wild Game Room, located on Chalan Pale Arnold Road.

Tarkong said the suspect was described as skinny, light complexioned, with curly hair, and was wearing a red shirt and short pants.

Tarkong said investigation showed that on Sunday at 8pm, the suspect was the only person gambling at Poker

Wild Game Room.

After an hour of gambling, the suspect left. The male poker attendant saw the suspect went inside a silver car and park the vehicle a few feet away from the establishment.

About five minutes later, the suspect returned, already masked with dark cloth on his face and armed with a knife.

The robber approached the attendant and demanded money. The attendant ran away and called the police.

When the attendant returned

to the game room, he discovered that the front door of the cashier's booth was broken and money was stolen. The report did not mention the amount stolen.

Tarkong said that Crime Stoppers is asking the community's assistance for information about the robbery. Tarkong urged the public to call their hotline at 234-7272 for any information about the suspect. Crime Stoppers offers up to \$1,000 cash for any information leading to an arrest. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

## Assault charge vs Zoning Board member dismissed

The Superior Court dismissed yesterday the charge of assault with a dangerous weapon filed against Zoning Board member Edward Arriola Jr.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo dropped the charge after the Office of the Attorney General asked the court to dismiss the charge with prejudice.

The OAG charged Arriola with assault with a dangerous weapon and disturbing the peace for allegedly throwing a cell phone and a remote control, hitting his wife in the face, during an argument at their residence in Finasisu on Nov. 9.

Joseph Norita Camacho, counsel for Arriola, had argued that a cell phone and TV remote control are not dangerous weapons. "Neither a cell phone nor a TV remote is likely to produce death or great bodily injury," Camacho said.

Camacho attached to his motion to dismiss a police report prepared by detective Peter Aldan stating that the charge of assault with a dangerous weapon

should be dropped.

The OAG did not respond to the motion.

At yesterday's hearing, assistant attorney general Shelli Neal conceded and asked the court to dismiss the charge.

Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that Arriola and his father, Edward Arriola Sr., are thankful the government has dropped the charge.

"We further encourage the government to review the remaining charges and make sure that evidence exists to sustain those charges," Camacho said.

The charge carries a three-year mandatory sentence.

"Can you imagine going to jail for three years because the government wrongfully charge you that a cell phone and TV remote are dangerous weapons?" the lawyer said.

Arriola is also the manager of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation and a corporate affairs officer of Tan Holdings Corp. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

# Androids Specials



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## THIS SATURDAY SABALU FARMERS MARKET

(across MHS Susupe)  
Fresh Local Produce  
& Local Dishes  
6:00am - 11:00am

Also visit Farmers Market on Tuesday!  
from 3pm - 9pm (across Kristo Rai)





# It's now up to governor what to do with AG

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

After the Office of the Public Auditor released its report on the ethics investigation involving Attorney General Ed Buckingham and the Office of the Attorney General, it will now be up to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial whether to follow OPA's recommendations.

The governor has 30 days from receipt of the recommendation to report to the public auditor in writing the actions taken on the OPA recommendation.

The results of the report remain confidential, but sources said its findings include improper actions by the AG for his involvement at a delegate campaign gathering.

Buckingham is currently on vacation and will be back in January 2011.

Acting press secretary Teresa Kim said Buckingham's vacation was planned over a month ago and is not because of the release of the OPA report.

Fitial is expected to be back this weekend from Palau where he attended the Dec. 15 to 17 Micronesian Chief Executives Summit.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos, who also received a copy of the report, is now reviewing it.

"The governor and lieutenant governor will sit down and discuss the report once both have had the opportunity to completely review the report," Kim told *Saipan Tribune*.

Concerned citizens and delegate candidates formally requested OPA in September to investigate Buckingham's and the OAG's alleged violation of ethics and election statutes when they hosted a campaign gathering for Covenant Party delegate candidate Joseph Camacho on Aug. 28 at the governor's private residence in Gualo Rai.

Some of those citizens who asked for the investigation said yesterday they have not received a copy of the results

of that probe.

Buckingham had denied endorsing any candidate. Fitial at the time said "people should respect the decision of other people in selecting the candidate of their choice."



Buckingham

Inos, who is currently the acting governor, did not attend the Aug. 28 gathering at the governor's residence.

OPA said the report and recommendations are confidential pursuant to 1 CMC Section 8563.

This section states in part, "Complaints to the Public Auditor and investigations and recommendations thereon shall be confidential, except

as necessary to carry out powers and duties of the Public Auditor or to enable another person or agency to consider and act upon the notices and recommendations of the Public Auditor."

Public Auditor Michael Pai only confirmed on Wednesday that a "confidential report was sent to the governor and lieutenant governor with a copy to the attorney general."

"In accordance with CNMI statutes, OPA cannot comment on this report," he said.

The complaints filed with OPA alleged that Buckingham and the OAG's committed criminal violations of the CNMI Election Reform Act of 2000, and the Commonwealth Ethics Code Act of 1992.

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## HOW TO

From Page 1

distributed to less fortunate children 12 years old and below on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota through Karidat.

Aside from toys, they also accept

check donations payable to specific stores so they can buy the toys for the donors.

Drop-off locations for the toys are at the Marianas Health Services, Lollipop, and IT&E. Last day for toy collection is on Saturday, Dec. 18.

For more information, call Marianas Health Services at 233-4646 or Karidat

at 234-5248.

### Christmas in the Marianas CD

The Rotary Club of Saipan launched last month "Christmas in the Marianas," a CD that features 15 original and cover holiday songs interpreted by 15 artists from Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and

Guam. The songs were performed in Chamorro, Carolinian, and English.

Proceeds of the Christmas CD sales will fund various Rotary projects, including the construction of a children's playground for Kagman village.

The Christmas CD, which costs \$15 apiece, is available at any of the following stores: Joeten Shopping Center in Garapan and Susupe, Triple J Super Fresh Mart, Surf Turf Shop in Garapan, Tun Kiku's, Skechers, Kagman Mobil, and the Star Sands Plaza.

Orders can also be placed through the Rotary Club's Facebook page or by sending an email to saipanrotary@gmail.com. You may also approach any Rotarian to get the CD.

The Rotary is accepting off-island orders through money order. Send the money order to the Saipan Rotary Club at P.O. Box 500434 Saipan, MP 96950.

### Imagine – Karidat Food Drive Campaign

Hard Rock Café Saipan is hosting a food drive to support the various projects of Karidat. Called "Imagine-Karidat Food Drive Campaign," it encourages community members to donate any canned goods in time for the holiday season. Donations may be dropped off at Hard Rock Café until Dec. 23.

Imagine items are also available for sale at Hard Rock for a limited time only. Perez said 15 percent of the proceeds will benefit WhyHunger, which supports grassroots organizations that bring about self-reliance, economic justice, and equal access to nutritious and affordable food.

For more information, call Reynaldo Perez at 233-7625 or visit Hard Rock Saipan's Facebook account.

### Salvation Army

The Salvation Army on Saipan, an international faith-based organization, has already started its Christmas Kettle Program, an annual fundraising activity that solicit spare change donations from holiday shoppers. The primary kettle site is located at Joeten Superstore but there are also kettles on bank

teller counters of the Bank of Hawaii's Garapan and Chalan Kanoa branches.

There is also a food box located beside the red kettle at the Joeten Superstore for those who prefer to donate non-perishable food instead of cash. Cash and food donations will be used for the group's feeding program.

The Angel Tree program invites establishments to set up and decorate Christmas trees and ask their customers to donate toys to be placed under the Angel Tree. Stop by any location of Bank of Hawaii to drop of toys not only for young children but also for 12 years or older.

The Christmas Kettle Program, the food drive, and the Angel Tree Drive will conclude on Dec. 24, Christmas Eve. For more information, contact ministry leader Wayne Gillespie at 483-0885.

### United in Love CD

The United in Love organization produced its first Christmas CD to showcase various standard holiday songs in cultural renditions that include Chamorro, Carolinian, English, Korean, Palauan, and Tagalog.

All songs were performed by over 50 individuals and choir members of different ethnicities who came together in harmony despite cultural diversity.

About 500 CDs are up for sale at \$15 each. Proceeds of the CD sales will benefit Karidat. To buy the CD, call Karidat at 234-5248, Bernadette Choi at 287-2444, Malua Peter at 285-8281 or Raffaela Perry at 989-0824.

### Christmas production

The Friends of the Arts will be presenting its annual holiday performance on Dec. 17, 18 and 19, at 7pm, at the American Memorial Park's indoor theater. The play, "Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society Production of A Christmas Carol," is a comedy inspired by Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. The first two performances are by ticket, and the third requires a donation to the Salvation Army for admission.



### RED CROSS DONATES COMFORT KITS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The NMI Red Cross recently donated 160 comfort kits to the CHC Volunteers Association. NMI Red Cross executive director John Hirsh said this annual donation to the association is one of the many partnerships the Red Cross has with private, government, and non for profit agencies in the Commonwealth. The CHC volunteers have contributed countless hours to raising money used to purchase supplies and equipment used at the Commonwealth Health Center. On hand to receive the donation are Rita V. Tenorio, CHC Gift Shop volunteer, Patrick Lizama, Gift Shop staff, J.D. Tenorio of the American Red Cross, and Department of Public Health Staff. For more information on the Red Cross and how to become a volunteer, call 234-3459 or visit their website at www.nmi.redcross.com.

## NO HOUSE

From Page 1

Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) has been off island since Monday.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), a former member of the House leadership and now with the minority, questioned whether Ogomoro was just getting orders from Tenorio while he's off-island.

Ogomoro, in a statement, said the House leadership will remain unfazed by claims of the minority bloc whose main focus, she said, "is of lesser significance—the desire to get the speakership by House minority leader (Diego) Benavente."

Benavente (R-Saipan), when asked for comment, said Ogomoro is right that getting the speakership is of "lesser significance" than the minority's main reason for calling for sessions—to pass critical bills and dispose of governor's and Senate's communications that have been piling up.

"There is no question that the bills and the communications are piling up,"

Benavente said.

But Ogomoro, in her statement, said "it is not true that bills and resolutions introduced in the House are piling up and is disruptive because of the postponement of the House sessions as claimed by House minority leader Benavente."

"The committees' reviews of all legislative measures are being done in a careful and responsible manner. Committees need time for careful review, deliberation and evaluation work, some of which involve more research, public hearings, comments, etc.," she said.

Ogomoro said she cannot overemphasize the importance of addressing the CNMI's dire economic condition of the CNMI.

"As legislators, we must be astute in planning for and passing measures to improve revenue collections, revenue generation through investments, introduction of new industries, and responsible expenditure of government resources," she said.

### Blame game

Ogomoro said the House leadership is "disturbed and surprised" that the

minority members blame them for the implementation of the government austerity program and the CNMI's current economic crisis.

"This is an unfounded criticism," she said.

Ogomoro said the minority leader and some senior members of the minority bloc, who have served for over 10 to 15 years in the Legislature, "knew very well that the global economic shutdown...but they did nothing to sustain or improve our economy."

"Because of their failure to act, we now are experiencing cuts in pay, unemployment, shutdown of government services, reduction in work hours, businesses suffering and closing, and our people are suffering," she said.

Ogomoro said the leadership will prevail "because we have the political will to get us out of this economic crisis."

"Political bickering and sheer petty politics have no place in the House of Representatives. This is an exercise in futility, and should not be done at the expense of our people who are suffering," she added.

## REBATE

From Page 1

turn on time, and was able to address the deficiency noted in his tax return. He has since been waiting for the check, which he estimates to be \$1,500.

"I hope to get it before Jan. 5, before my wife gives birth. It would be my first child," he said, adding that the money could help pay for medical and related expenses.

He said since the Fitial administration came in, he was able to get his rebate a year earlier.

"Before that, I would get my 2004 rebate in 2006, not 2005. But yes I am still waiting for my 2009 rebate," he added.

A 35-year-old mother of two from As Lito said she also expects to get some \$1,500 in rebate, and is hoping

to receive it before Christmas to do her holiday shopping.

She said Finance noted deficiencies in her filed tax return, and was able to file the corrected one in late October. She said when she checked on the status of her tax return with Revenue and Taxation last week, she was told "it's now in the system and it's now up to Treasury." She said when she checked with Treasury, her tax return is not in the system yet.

Another taxpayer, a 34-year-old father to a daughter, said when he receives his rebate check, he would use it to buy gifts for his loved ones. He said he used to be one of those who receive their rebate checks early on, but not this year.

A refund is for tax that has been overpaid or incorrectly paid, and is returned to the taxpayer. It is different from the rebate, which is for tax properly paid

and is subsequently returned to the taxpayer under a rebate provision.

On July 12, Finance mailed out some 10,000 taxpayer refund checks totaling \$6.4 million, including their federal stimulus checks. At the time, the administration said some 9,000 more checks were being processed.

In early November, hundreds of taxpayers still had yet to receive their refund and rebate checks, and the administration said it was because the rebate trust account was short by an estimated \$2 million, while other taxpayers' tax filings may have been deficient and needed to be corrected.

The CNMI government has been in a tight financial condition, causing it to delay the release of paychecks for non-critical service since June. But the Fitial administration said the government did not touch any rebate funding for payroll.

## MIXED

From Page 1

illegal possession of a controlled substance ("ice").

The second suspect, George T. Manglona, was found guilty of only one count of illegal possession of a controlled substance (marijuana). He was acquitted on charges of trafficking of a controlled substance ("ice"), illegal possession of a controlled substance ("ice"), and conspiracy to trafficking of a controlled substance ("ice").

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona set Deleon Guerrero's sentencing on March 30, 2011, and ordered the Office of the Adult Probation to prepare a pre-sentence investigation report.

Deleon Guerrero was remanded to the Department of Corrections. He was directed to present himself to Corrections today, Friday at noon.

George T. Manglona was immediately freed as the maximum sentence for marijuana possession is a \$50 fine.

Joseph Norita Camacho, counsel for Deleon Guerrero, had objected to his client being remanded to Corrections' custody while awaiting sentencing.

Assistant attorney general Russell Lorring brought to the court's attention, however, that Deleon Guerrero has a prior conviction in federal court for "ice" charges and that there was testi-

mony in the Superior Court case about a gun in Deleon Guerrero's possession.

Judge Manglona said there was evidence presented at trial that, although the gun was not in Deleon Guerrero's possession, the firearm was within his reach.

"That's my concern," the judge said.

The prosecutors agreed to allow Deleon Guerrero to report to DOC today, Friday. The judge agreed.

After the hearing, Camacho expressed thanks to the jurors.

"Mr. Deleon Guerrero is very thankful that serious charges of trafficking of 'ice' he was found not guilty," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*.

Lorring said Deleon Guerrero is a convicted felon again and that they believe one illegal drug distributor is now off the street.

Lorring said they are very disappointed with the verdict regarding George Manglona.

However, Lorring said, they went through the process and they respect the jurors' verdict.

Guerrero and Manglona were arrested on March 10, 2010, for trafficking of a controlled substance and illegal possession of a controlled substance.

A detective said they were able to buy \$40 worth of "ice" from Deleon Guerrero and \$50 worth of "ice" from Manglona using a "cooperating source."



# Sobriety checkpoints this weekend

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting DUI sobriety checkpoint this weekend, Dec. 17 to 19, 2010.

Today, Dec. 17, the first checkpoint will be on Beach Road Susupe in front of the Multi-Purpose Building, on the northbound lane, from 9pm to 10:15pm.

The second checkpoint will be on Beach Road Chalan Kanoa in front of the Super Fresh Market, on the northbound lane, from 11:30pm to 12:45am, early Sat-

urday morning on Dec. 18.

The third checkpoint will be on Chalan Pale Arnold highway by the CNMI Museum on the northbound lane, from 1:45am to 3:45am of Dec. 18.

Tomorrow, Dec. 18, the first checkpoint will be on Beach Road Chalan Laulau by Dr. Kaipat's residence on the southbound lane, from 7:30pm to 8:45pm.

The second checkpoint will be on Chalan Pale Arnold, Puerto Rico by the U.S. Army Reserve

Center on the southbound lane, from 10pm to 11:15pm.

The third checkpoint will be on Beach Road Garapan across Bank Pacific, on the southbound lane, from 1am to 2:15am, early Sunday morning on Dec. 19.

On Sunday, Dec. 19, the first checkpoint will be on Beach Road Susupe in front of the Minatchom Atdao pavilion on the southbound lane, from 4:30pm to 5:45pm.

The second checkpoint will be on Cahlan Pale Arnold, Garapan across the Upper Miha Estate on the southbound lane, from 6:30pm to 7:45pm.

The third checkpoint will be on Beach Road San Jose in front of the Morgan Building on the northbound lane, from 8:30pm

to 9:45pm.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location.

In addition, police officers

will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrol, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser activities.

If you know you can't drive,

call the 3D hotline at 898-HELP OR 898-SAVE.

This activity is part of the department's efforts to ensure that all operators abide the law. (DPS)

## CONTACT INFO

3D HOTLINE: 989-HELP (4357) and 898-SAVE (7283)

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# Tinian municipal employees spared from 16-hour cut in 1Q

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**TINIAN**—Employees of the Municipality of Tinian are luckier than their counterparts on Saipan and Rota because none of its 111 government personnel were made to endure a 16-hour work-hour cut in the first quarter of the fiscal year.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz said yesterday that all his employees were allowed to take home their full 80-hour biweekly pays in October, November, and December.

Dela Cruz, however, said this exemption from the work-hour cut will last only until next month—January—as soon as the holiday season is over.

“I decided to postpone the implementation of austerity measure during the holiday season and start the 16-hour reduction after January. All our employees are still working 80 hours and are able to bring extra money to their families this holiday,” said Dela Cruz.

Since October, the Fitial administration has been im-

plementing a 16-hour work reduction among most Commonwealth civil servants due to the slowdown in the local economy and low revenue collection. The cut is being enforced by closing government operations every other Friday, except for essential services such as public safety and health care.

Dela Cruz plans to implement the 16-hour work-hour cut by suspending work every Friday to give employees more time to spend with their families, take part-time jobs, and do recreational activities such as fishing and farming.

Dela Cruz describes this fis-

cal year as a challenging time for the municipality because of reduced allocation from the central government.

From about \$8 million in previous years, Tinian will receive only over \$5 million in fiscal 2011.

Because of this drastic cut, Dela Cruz said he has reduced the number of his workers and streamlined operations. From a previous 160 employees, Dela Cruz said the municipality now has only 111 personnel, including himself. He said many positions were also not filled to save on personnel cost.

“I didn’t fill various positions to avoid duplication of work. We

don’t even hire anybody over \$40,000 salary because we don’t have the money and we cannot afford it,” he told *Saipan Tribune*.

He revealed that only resident directors get the highest salary of \$36,000 at present due to the salary cap.

“The budget is very tight... but we can work within our means. I am just fortunate that a lot of employees understand the situation of the government and they do a lot of volunteer work for our people. It’s always nice to work with people who have a heart for the community... and that what keeps me going,” added the mayor.

## Oil spill drill preps for real thing

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Crewmembers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. successfully completed a spill drill this week, the objective of which was to establish command and control, and execute oil spill recovery actions based on the national preparedness for response exercise program protocol mandated

by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae said yesterday that the drill was also participated in by staff of Mobil, Osroco, and Gresco—companies that have all been contracted to assist CUC in case of a real oil spill on island.

“Drills are required under federal regulations so that CUC can practice and prepare in case of a real oil spill,” said Malae,

citing the importance of complying with the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

The made-up scenario for the drill was that while CUC was transferring oil, a passing boom truck accidentally ruptured the fuel line. The leak was not discovered for 17 minutes, and 4,000 gallons of diesel spilled on the ground. The drill started at 9:15am, with a pretend phone call that there had been an oil spill.

CUC personnel immediately established a command center at the Power Plant 1 conference room. Will Sword, the technical manager for oil, immediately called Malae and operations chief Al Santos to inform them of the “spill.” At the same time, the incident commander, Venugopal Prabhakara, called the U.S. National Response Center in the mainland to report the “spill.” For a drill, the National Response Center gives out a drill number.

Other notifications went out to the U.S. Coast Guard; the CNMI Emergency Management Office; the oil spill response organizations (Mobil, Osroco, and Gresco); and the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality.

Ranking members of CNMI agencies, including EMO director Joaquin Omar, rushed to the command center. In addition, Lt. John Peterson from the U.S. Coast Guard arrived on the scene.

CUC had an area map setup on a screen for the command center to refer to, and advised the responders where the environment needed to be protected. Mobil Oil deployed one boat, while Osroco deployed one skimmer boat and two boom boats. A boom is a piece of equipment put into the water to contain any oil movement and a skimmer takes the oil off the water and puts it into a tank for later disposal. There is a sensitive mangrove area which CUC protected with the deployment of a boom in the water.

After the drill ended, Peterson said that CUC and the responders did a good job of getting the proper equipment out to respond to the pretend spill. He believes drills like the one held by CUC are helpful in testing the elements of any plan.



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# Fitial, other leaders honor Guam's outgoing governor

**KOROR, Palau**—During its second day of proceedings, CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitia introduced his second resolution, this time recognizing the “many contributions made by Governor Felix Perez Camacho for the people of Guam, the people of Micronesia, and the Micronesian Chief Executives.”

Fitia lauded the leadership abilities and people-oriented skills of Camacho, who is set to turn over Guam's highest elected to post to governor-elect Eddie B. Calvo come January.

“It is only proper and very much fitting that we honor one of the founding fathers of this

summit and a very respectable leader of the island of Guahan and the Micronesian region,” said Fitia.

Fitia's resolution also hailed Camacho for his efforts during the three separate times that he chaired the summit in Guam. “Governor Felix P. Camacho has attended all 14 Micronesian Chief Executive Summits held to date and has been a guiding steward in its evolution and development,” reads the resolution.

Camacho also received warm praises as the most senior member of the MCES. In filing the resolution, Fitia noted, “Gov-  
ernor Camacho introduced or-

ganizational innovations and improvements to the MCES process like the creation of the standing committee structure of the MCES at the Third and Fourth Summits held in Guam.”

The resolution further reads that, “Camacho has consistently articulated a vision of the Summit process rooted in the solidarity and sovereignty of the Chief Executives and of the people and island states and territories that they represent and in so doing has pursued with tenacity and vision goals and ideals rooted in his love of and search for economic, environmental and social justice for all.”

“Gov. Camacho has been a driving force for the emergence of cooperative multilateral governance in Micronesia, and has been a champion of using this vision to expand the Micronesian voice in local, regional and international fora in order to ensure a better life and sustainable future for all of the people of Micronesia,” said Fitia in his resolution.

Breaking away from the traditional process, the chief executives unanimously adopted the resolution offered by Fitia and immediately went into recess to affix their signatures. (*Office of the CNMI Governor*)

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 17, 1998

### No retirement bill fix after House session

The House of Representatives yesterday held off action on a measure that will provide a grandfather clause on the 10-year retirement contribution required under a new law that has drawn protest from teachers on the island. Legislators were concerned that the legislative proposal is unfair as many of those availing the retirement as provided in the old law have a three-year government service and yet receive more benefits than they actually contributed. An amendment to the existing law passed earlier by the legislature has raised to 10 years the requirement to be eligible for the retirement, catching off guard some teachers recruited by the Public School System from the U.S. mainland who were lured by the package.

### PSS seeking volunteers

The Public School System will form a pool of substitute teachers from volunteers when classes resume in January. Commissioner of Education Rita H. Inos yesterday appealed for volunteers, particularly those who have retired from teaching, or other professionals, to become part of the manpower pool. “If it takes a whole community to raise a child, this is the opportune time to make it real in the CNMI,” she said. With its current payroll deficit, PSS is unable to hire substitute teachers. On Saipan alone, each school would require one substitute teacher daily. There are 10 public schools on Saipan.

Dec. 17, 2001

### CPA empowered to certify firefighters

The National Pro-Board Committee on Accreditation voted to make the Commonwealth Ports Authority a certification agency for fire and emergency personnel. CPA Airport Rescue and Firefighting Chief Stanley Torres Jr. said this would make Saipan a training hub for fire and emergency personnel throughout the region. It gives the CPA the power to certify fire and emergency personnel using the National Fire Protection Association standards beginning December 6, 2001. The ports authority will open the certification program to fire and emergency organizations within the Western Pacific region that may wish to be certified under the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications, Torres said.

### Hopwood says no to drugs

The Hopwood Junior High School community believes that acknowledging its existence is the first step that should be taken to effectively solve the campus' drug problems. Principal David Borja, during Hopwood's annual Drug Free March Friday, conceded that staging the anti-drug rally is one way of showing the school's efforts in combating the serious social and health threat especially affecting its young students. “To me, it's very important that we continue to make a very public and open statement to the community. It is our small of saying that we need to do something about the drug use, and the prevention of family and domestic violence. It's important that we communicate that we are part of the community and we need their help,” said Borja.

Dec. 17, 2002

### CNMI museum loses curator anew

The CNMI Museum of History and Culture is without a curator—again—following the recent decision of the Museum Board to let go of curator Gigi York who needs to attend to husband Robert for medication in the U.S. mainland. “Much as we'd like her to stay here, she has to be with her husband who undergoes a therapy. It's difficult. They like it here, but they had to leave for medication,” Board Chair Herman T. Guerrero said. At the same time, Guerrero announced that the Museum Board has hired a new executive director, Mary Margaret Sablan, formerly an administrative officer at the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

### MPLA OKs proposed Garapan public market

The Marianas Public Lands Authority Board has approved the use of a 5,000- square meter land in Garapan for the construction of a public market. The area is located at the Garapan Fishing Base across Kristo Rai church on Beach Road. MPLA commissioner Henry Hofschneider said the board approved only a 5,000 square meter lot, not 10,000 as earlier proposed by the Department of Lands and Natural Resources. He also noted the MPLA only approved the construction of a public market for farmers, which costs some \$500,000, and not the development of a public park. “That's the agreement,” he said.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the “Open Government Act”, the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, December 21, 2010, 8:00 am to 12:00 pm, at the Pacific Islands Club, Napu Room. This meeting is open to the public; interested individuals are welcome to attend.

### AGENDA

- I. **Call to Order**
  - A. Welcome & Introduction
- II. **Parent Survey Results**
  - SY 2009-2010 Data
- III. **State and Annual Performance Report**
  - Review and Stakeholder Input
- IV. **Miscellaneous**
- V. **Adjournment**

In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print, sign language or interpreter, must call 237-3029/19, several days' notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/ Margaret Aldan  
Chairwoman

/s/ Sazanne W. Lizama  
Early Intervention Coordinator

## PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance with the “Open Government Act”, the Public School System State Board of Education, through their Special Education State Advisory Panel (SESAP), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, December 21, 2010, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, at the Pacific Islands Club, Napu Room. This meeting is open to the public; interested individuals are welcome to attend.

### AGENDA

- I. **Call to Order**
  - A. Welcome & Introduction
  - B. Attendance \* Quorum
- II. **Parent Survey Results – SY 2009-2010**
- III. **State and Annual Performance Report - Review**
- IV. **Adjournment**

In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print, sign language or interpreter, must call 237-3029/19, several days' notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/ Frances Diaz  
Chairwoman

/s/ Sazanne W. Lizama  
Special Education Acting Coordinator



# NMPASI gains access to Juvenile Detention Unit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The hearing in federal court on the lawsuit filed by the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. against Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao was a very short one yesterday after Faisao submitted a letter granting NMPASI access to the Kagman Juvenile Detention Unit.

Assistant attorney general Jim Mitchell, counsel for Faisao, submitted Faisao's letter.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge William Fremming Nielsen interpreted the letter to be a concession by Faisao that NMPASI is entitled to access the JDU facility.

Nielsen said he will draft an order detailing the terms. He ordered lawyers of NMPASI and Faisao to meet today, Friday, at 10am, to finalize all matters in the case.

NMPASI lawyer Matthew J. Holley told *Saipan Tribune* that, although he is pleased that NMPASI may now enter the detention unit, he wishes they could have resolved the issue a long time ago and without having to go to court.

Holley said he looks forward to working with the Office of the Attorney General and the juvenile facility.

"Now that we have access to the facility we have a responsibility to provide essential services to eligible children, and with this access we too should be held ac-

countable for providing such services. NMPASI has a dedicated team of advocates and I know we are up to the task," Holley said.

NMPASI sued Faisao after the JDU allegedly denied it access to the facility. NMPASI has alleged that it has one client at the JDU that has asked for NMPASI's services.

Faisao had asked the court to dismiss the complaint, saying the juvenile detention unit does not keep any individuals with developmental disabilities and with mental illnesses and has not done so during his tenure as DCCA secretary.

NMPASI, however, filed last week an amended complaint that included a list of juveniles with disabilities at the JDU.

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XX, Issue No. 300Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## The US needs defense against cyberattacks

By TRUDY RUBIN

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at [trubin@phillynews.com](mailto:trubin@phillynews.com).



WikiLeaks has woken Americans up to the concept of “cyberwar.”

“Cyberanarchists” are attacking the websites of multinational companies that cut off services to WikiLeaks after it published classified State Department cables.

But these cyberattacks in the name of Internet freedom are mere pinpricks in comparison with the havoc a real cyberwar could wreak. Yet Americans have developed no credible defenses, according to former White House counterterrorism czar Richard A. Clarke, author of a chilling book called “Cyber War: The Next Threat to National Security and What to Do About It.”

“The United States is currently far more vulnerable to cyberwar than Russia or China,” said Clarke, speaking to Philadelphia’s Foreign Policy Research Institute last week. “We may even be at risk some day from nonstate actors ... who can hire teams of highly capable hackers.”

Our risk is high because we are more dependent on computer networks than any other nation. “All our critical infrastructure depends on computer networks working,” Clarke said, including trains, planes, truck dispatchers, the electricity grid, hospitals, pipelines, supply chains, banks, and the stock exchange.

“A sophisticated cyberwar attack by one of several nation-states,” Clarke said, could bring all that to a halt in 15 minutes. The effect “would be just the same as if you dropped a bomb.” Things would break, crash, burn, explode, or go dark.

High-tech weaponry and communications satellites also depend on computer networks. Yet the former director of national intelligence, Mike McConnell, told a Senate committee in February: “If we were in a cyberwar today, the United States would lose.”

Our vulnerability lies in the characteristic that has made the Internet so attractive—its openness. A would-be attacker can plant “trapdoors” or “logic bombs”—code that can be triggered in the future to cause damage. The attacker can take advantage of flaws in software to propagate so-called malware—computer viruses and worms.

The Pentagon is developing the capacity to wage offensive cyberwar—on Oct. 1, 2009, a general took charge of the new U.S. Cyber Command—yet there is no coordinated civilian-military strategy to defend against attackers. Concerns about Internet openness, along with the private sector’s resistance to regulation, have stood in the way.

But we fail to listen to Clarke at our peril. Recall that he was the White House Cassandra who fruitlessly warned in the Clinton and George W. Bush administrations about the danger posed by al-Qaeda.

As he points out now, we have already seen trial runs for a future cyberwar against the United States. Russia tolerates sophisticated criminal cartels that make billions by hacking into bank and credit card accounts. “In 1997, when Russia got mad at Estonia, Russian criminal cartels knocked out that country’s computer networks, but Russia denied responsibility,” Clarke said. When Russia attacked Georgia in 2008, that country’s entire communications system went down.

China, he said, is “regularly breaking into (the networks of)

See CYBERATTACKS on Next Page



## Saipan learns Chinese

If you’re resolving to study Chinese next year you’ll sure be in good company. About half the people I know on Saipan are planning to engage the language at some level. Some just want a taste of it. Others are determined to slog through the years of study it will take to get some genuine ability going.

As for me, well, I’m lost in space. After just one semester of the gig, plus a totally wasted year of occasional “self study,” I’m still a rank beginner.

Anyway, with Christmas just a matter of days away, I think that Chinese books will be a solid gift idea in the Commonwealth. I can’t give you an expert opinion on them: After all, I’m no expert. In fact, I’m a demonstrably incompetent amateur, but, as pathetic as that is, at least I can give you some observations from the trenches.

So let me quickly describe the battlefield first. When people talk of the “Chinese” language, they usually mean Mandarin, the dominant tongue. There are other flavors as well, such as Cantonese, which prevails in Hong Kong (the writing is the same as Mandarin, it’s the speaking that’s different.)

Now that we’re in the right trench, let me point out a minefield that took me as a casualty: The simplified vs. traditional gig. In mainland China and in Singapore, the writing uses “simplified” characters, while in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and most overseas Chinese-language newspapers, the “traditional” script is used. Most of these two realms overlap, but there are areas where they are different; sometimes a little different, occasionally a lot different.

Anyway, my context here is for someone learning Mandarin and simplified characters. This is the context that most people on Saipan will be confronting. So if you’re looking for the safest default choice, this is it.

I’ve sprayed over a thousand bucks on books and stuff, so I’ll try to save you some money by mentioning a few of the books that have earned their positions at the front of my shelf.

1). The Oxford Beginner’s Chinese Dictionary  
List price: \$16.75

This thing is a work of pure genius. It’s more than just a dry list of words; it provides useful pointers and compiles things in useful ways. It is easy to read, using blue and black text to sort things out. I have a bunch of dictionaries, but this is my favorite.

2). 250 Essential Chinese Characters for Everyday Use, Vol. 1  
List price: \$24.95

(Revised edition: \$29.95)

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at [TropicalEd.com](http://TropicalEd.com). Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.



I haven’t seen the revised edition, so I can only comment on the prior version, which is still widely available. This book is one of many products from Tuttle Publishing company. Author Philip Yungkin Lee walks the reader, step by step, through the process of writing these characters. It’s basically a workbook.

When I first saw this book I ignored it, since it looked like an awfully lot of pages dedicated to so few characters. But now that I’ve gotten bogged down in things I have renewed appreciation for the merits of taking a methodical, baby-step process from the very start.

Were I to embark on this learning process anew, this would be my very first book on written Chinese. In fact, it would be my first book on Chinese, period.

3). Reading & Writing Chinese: Simplified Character Edition  
List price: \$24.95

William McNaughton is the author of this tome from Tuttle, which covers 1,067 characters as the main feature, and also squeezes in about 1,400 others at the end. This book is oriented to the “HSK” (Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi, which basically means “Chinese level test”) written exams, which are taken by folks to demonstrate their knowledge of Chinese as a foreign language. I’ll describe it as an “instructional reference book,” since it’s not a “reader” with passages of prose or dialog to offer. The text is easy to read, but still dense enough to be packed with information; it would be an endeavor of years upon years to master the contents.

4). Chinese-English Frequency Dictionary  
List price: \$18.95

Author Yong Ho explains the 500 most common Chinese words. This is a very wonkish book, and very academically written, often using fancy grammar terms I don’t understand. However, it offers a lot of useful examples of how words are used as building blocks for other words, which makes it worth having as a reference.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

**Letters to the Editor****No to Retirement Fund proposals**

I am a government employee from the island of Rota and I am very much disturbed by the proposal of the NMI Retirement Fund to increase the retirement age from the current 62 to 65 or 67. This is a somewhat questionable solution, which requires comments from employees. Clearly, if you impose a 65 or 67 retirement age, it will definitely prolong the presence of those employees who are about to retire and will continue to burden the financially strapped government. I believe it is prudent to look at options and encourage those employees who reach or about to reach the age of 62 plus 20 years or more in service to immediately retire so that perhaps their salaries upon vacating their positions can be diverted to the retirement pension system rather than filling the vacancies. In fact, hiring restrictions of non-critical and emergency positions was provided under section 602 (a) of Public Law 17-21.

Moreover, to increase the retirement age is like holding employees hostage and thus incarcerating them to life in prison. Definitely, there were employees who died before they even reached the existing retirement age of 62. Just by imposing the existing retirement age of 62, it is already an arduous term for employees to reach. It is an agony and a lot of struggling years for employees to try to reach the retirement age of 62 and then to just suddenly get sick and die! As we have experienced nowadays, the life span for some is roughly from 45 to 70 years of age and it will be lucky if anyone reaches 62 or more. Additionally, employees with such senior citizen ages will no longer be productive and will always be absent, frustrated, and exhausted. This situation will also incur undue hardships for the departments. I suggest that, instead of increasing the retirement age, lower it to 50 or 55 so that the government can let go of those employees who have already served 20 years or more. That way, the government could save money as a result of the vacancies and the funds could be diverted to the pension system.

In matter of survivor benefits, I appeal to the NMI Retirement Fund to please have mercy and be compassionate to surviving spouses and their children. It will not be a good idea to touch their survivor benefits as this is the only pension left behind by deceased husbands and wives. Cutting their survivor benefits will only burden their livelihood and definitely make them suffer. To protect the retirement pension system from collapse and put the burden on the survivor's beneficiary is inhumane and disgraceful. The survivors should be protected and instead be given

incentive, rather than cutting their only survivor's pension. You are sitting behind your desk to protect and work for the interest of the people and not to betray and make people suffer. The loss of love ones causes enough pain and suffering and to cut their pension by 25 percent is an added burden.

Don't get me wrong. I am not saying your proposal is incorrect. Rather, it is impractical to implement especially at this time when a lot of people are struggling and suffering. There are other options that perhaps the NMI Retirement Fund can explore rather than penalize and castigate employees and survivors' spouses and children. All it takes to prevent the Fund from collapsing is sound and good management of the program and strong leadership. Collaborating efforts with the administration and the legislators are needed to inspire good leadership. Working harmoniously is preferable than continued infighting and confrontation. Let's stop this business of picking on employees by reducing salaries, raising the retirement age, and increasing health insurance and others.

We understand the financial predicament of the CNMI government but please understand as well that the whole mess should not be for the employees to shoulder alone since this mess was committed by past and present leaders as a result of mismanagement. Nevertheless, I call upon our legislators to review and scrutinize the proposal of the Retirement Fund whether or not there will be direct

benefit to the Fund if such policies of increasing the retirement age and cutting survivors' pension is enacted. Otherwise, please reject the proposal and move to other options that discourage penalizing and adding to the suffering of employees and survivors.

Lastly, to all our leaders, there should be no more room to continue making your people suffer. Leaders should lead to prosperity. Please lead us forward to better living and a desirable future. Confrontations and childish acts by our leaders is perverse. You must all work together as CNMI leaders to define ways and means to address our critical problem such as the economy, power, retirement fund, foreign workers, shipping freights, air carriers, tourism and others. Leaders have not even resolved major problems affecting the people and the more you inspire a solution to the problem the more you add and encounter problems. Your are there because of the people. The blame should be on your hands, my dear leaders. Please unite as one and move on to succeed in your most difficult and challenging task. Remember that 2012 is just around the corner; whatever performances you have manifested will the pay the price. Good luck and work harder for the interest and benefit of our people of the CNMI.

**Ruf Maratita**

*Sinapalo I, Rota*

**A plea for cooperation**

To the residents of Dandan and to those visiting the village of Dandan (Homestead):

For the past 16 months, a handful of Dandan residents have been volunteering to keep our village clean and safe. Every Saturday you'll see us along roadsides collecting trash, mowing the roadsides, and cutting down trees and tree branches that block our sight to traffic and pedestrians, particularly in intersections.

And as we all know, we have our Dandan Homestead Children's Park that was left abandoned after its Phase I construction. The Park was victimized by vandals, who twice robbed the residents of Dandan by stealing the electrical wires, the restroom facility and pavilions destroyed and plastered with graffiti. The group has managed to maintain the Park periodically and plans to restore electricity and renovate the restroom facility and the pavilions so that we can all enjoy what the Park can offer us, residents and visitors alike.

Despite the sacrifices, we continue to do this every Saturday because this is *home for us*. And we take pride, as we all should, in living in a clean, healthy, and relatively safe village. We are committed and determined to work hard: one roadside at a time, one additional volunteer at a time. Not all of us have the time to do these every Saturday. Understandably, we have our homes and families to take care of. And we don't expect individuals to volunteer every Saturday or for half-day on a Saturday. Come when you can and for as long as you can. Every able body is more than welcome to join the group. Every bit helps.

But every single one of us has a responsibility and roles to play. But we must first attempt to understand why we should all work hard, as individuals, families, or group, to keep our village clean, healthy, and safe. First, and again, this is home. This is where we live and raise our children. Second, we cannot, and should not, expect the government to do everything for us. What we lack is an understanding that there must be a symbiosis of a working relationship between the people and government. Meaning, what we can do, let's do it so as to free the government to focus

on major issues such as public education, public safety, public health, to name a few. Never before is this relationship needed as where are, faced with tremendous economic challenges. We must become active partners and exercise our civic duties and be a part of the solution.

What can we do? Simple. *Be responsible!*

1. Let's start by talking to our family members about littering. Around our homes and in our village. We are a clean and civilized people.

2. Try the best we can to main our homes and yards. And after mowing the yard, rid of the mowed grass and debris on the road. And if you have a vacant or abandoned lot next to yours, maintain it the best you can, if you have the time.

3. Observe the speed limit. We are all victims of someone's irresponsible driving behavior.

4. Make sure that trees or plants do not block drivers' sight of the traffic.

5. Betel nut spitting is not culture. It's unhealthy and ugly. It's your habit; deal with it responsibly.

6. Be thoughtful. Think about other things that you can do to make our village a better place to live.

7. And when we, the volunteers, are out working, please keep us safe!

In conclusion, I want to extend my most profound gratitude and my salute to those of you who have helped us in one way or another. And to my dearest partners: Mitch Aaron, Nunu Sanchez, Ben Matagolai, Rep. Joe Palacios, Rep. Eli Cabrera, John San Nicolas, Manny Muña, Phil Mendiola, and John LeonGuerrero (if I miss someone, my apology), your unselfish and untiring commitment to this very worthy cause have become the impetus that the residents and visitors to Dandan are enjoying: A clean, healthy and relatively *safe village*. You are the difference!

**Frank B. Camacho**

*Group Leader,*

*Dandan Neighborhood Watch & Village Revitalization Team*

**CYBERATTACKS**

*From Page 10*

American companies and stealing anything of value. We know of 3,000 U.S. companies that have been hacked, including Google and Cisco, whose source codes were stolen. It is a serious threat to our economy."

The Chinese, he said, have "established cyberwar military units," created private hacker groups, and "laced U.S. infrastructure with logic bombs." In stark contrast to the United States, China has developed "the ability to disconnect all Chinese networks from the rest of the global Internet"—which would give them a huge advantage in a cyberwar.

The most dramatic trial run was the recent highly sophisticated attack by a computer worm known as Stuxnet on Iranian centrifuges used to enrich uranium. The "good news," Clarke said, is that whoever managed to do this—and some think it was Israel—set Iran's nuclear program back for months "by a precision-guided cyberattack," without having to send bombers. The bad news: "This could happen to us."

This is why, Clarke said, "it's time we get over our partisanship and tell Congress to defend our cyberspace." We need a comprehensive strategy to defend critical civilian infrastructure, including electricity grids and major Internet service providers that are privately owned. A balance must be found between privacy protection and requiring the installation of scanning systems that detect malware.

Clarke also recommended a bigger government commitment to cyberresearch and an effort to craft an international accord banning cyberattacks on civilian institutions such as banks. Countries could then be held responsible for hacker attacks traced back to their territory.

And there should be a stronger Pentagon effort to secure its own networks. The theft of the documents WikiLeaks published was easily avoidable with available software; Clarke is worried about far bigger dangers—the large-scale cyberattacks against which we have no defense.

**Missing the point**

Mr. Ambrose Bennett missed the point again. Every time Mr. Bennett gets the bad end of a consequential outcome, he tends to blame and direct his anger at the principal actors in the process. This last election, he supported a candidate that lost the election. He should get over it and stop blaming the electorate of the CNMI for the election results. The electorate had spoken and elected a person that Mr. Bennett viewed and felt was inferior to his losing candidate. This is democracy in action in the CNMI in which most of the people that voted were much more inferior in educational level than Mr. Ambrose Bennett's esteemed educational achievements and qualifications. Regardless of the shortcomings of the people of the CNMI when electing a candidate for political office, this is the process in a political democracy. Hence, the governance and how the governed make the government

is the reality. Mr. Bennett missed this point entirely.

It is also important to note while discussing the past election that Mr. Bennett cost the candidate he supported dearly. You see, in the CNMI, as strange to a stranger as it may seem, a candidate's demise correlates exclusively with the inside supporters closest to the candidate. In the Washington delegate election, Mr. John Babauta lost the election critically because of the presence of Mr. Ambrose Bennett as a principal insider to Mr. Babauta's campaign stronghold. So my advice to Mr. Bennett, "he who stands high in his own estimation is a long way from the top."

**Francisco R. Agulto**






*Chalan Kanoa, District 2, Saipan*



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲86 ▼79
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲85 ▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲87 ▼76
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▼75

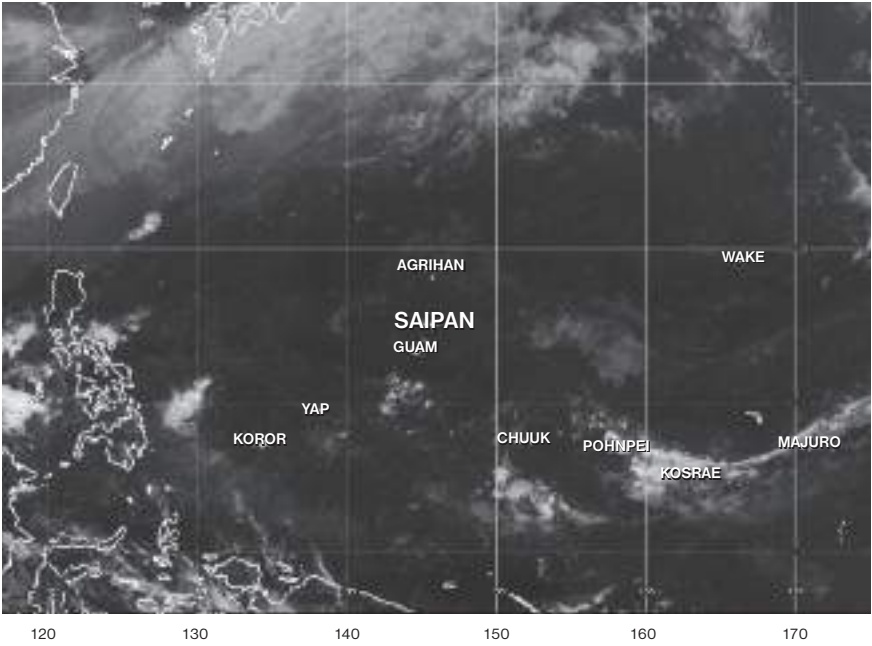
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲72 ▼69
Beijing	Sunny	▲41 ▼22
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲63 ▼53
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲81 ▼68
London	Mostly Sunny	▲34 ▼30
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲62 ▼43
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲75 ▼56
Miami	Sunny	▲75 ▼58
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲33 ▼24
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲51 ▼42
Paris	Snow	▲33 ▼29
Pusan	Windy	▲53 ▼35
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲44 ▼30
Salem	Ice	▲51 ▼34
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲57 ▼49
Seoul	Windy	▲40 ▼24
Tokyo	Sunny	▲51 ▼41
Washington, DC	Snow	▲29 ▼26

### Tides

Saipan Harbor				
5:32 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet	
10:09 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet	
3:50 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
11:24 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet	

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2010**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A strong cold front northwest of the Marianas runs southwestward from 25N143E to end near 21N130E. Scattered showers are located along this feature to beyond 250 miles northwest of this feature. Southeast convergent winds east of an inverted trough curving from 1N149E to 5N147E to 10N144E are generating scattered showers between 2N and 5N from 150E to 154E. Low-level convergence along a weakening shear line is generating scattered showers between Kosrae and Pohnpei between 4N and 7N from 159E to 162E. Convergent northeast winds along a weak inverted trough are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms northeast of Majuro between 11N and 13N from 178E to beyond the dateline.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:36 AM	5:50 PM
Saturday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM
Sunday	6:37 AM	5:51 PM
Monday	6:38 AM	5:51 PM
Tuesday	6:38 AM	5:52 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:19 PM	2:33 AM
Saturday	3:04 PM	3:25 AM
Sunday	3:54 PM	4:20 AM
Monday	4:49 PM	5:17 AM
Tuesday	5:47 PM	6:14 AM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
  - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS**  
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**  
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS**  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMU'T SARI**  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE**  
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN**  
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- For pictures:**
  - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Chief execs approve Fitia's fuel tax resolution

## » Guam governor recuses self from proceedings

**KOROR, Palau**—On the second day of the 14th Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit, Gov. Benigno R. Fitia officially introduced a resolution requesting the 30th Guam Legislature to table proposed Bill 429-30, which seeks to eliminate the current exemption from the liquid fuel tax for fuel transferred to a point outside of Guam.

The resolution reads, "A proposed bill before the 30th Guam Legislature (Proposed Bill No. 429-30) would eliminate the current exemption from the liquid fuel tax for fuel transferred to a point outside of Guam, in order to provide increased funding for potential environmental disasters related to fuel transfers."

By way of the resolution, the chief executives also noted that although Bill 429 is intended to raise revenue to support any harmful incidents that may occur, there are already safeguards that exist under the U.S. Oil

Pollution Act of 1990. "The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund provides up to one billion dollars per incident to mitigate harm to the environment and such resources far outweigh any revenue that could be gained by the elimination of the liquid fuel tax exemption," reads Fitia's resolution.

Before President Johnson Toribiong opened the floor for discussion on the resolution, Gov. Felix P. Camacho (Guam) told his fellow colleagues that he will recuse himself from the discussion and voting process to eliminate any forms of impropriety and conflict in the event the bill gets passed and transmitted to his office for action.

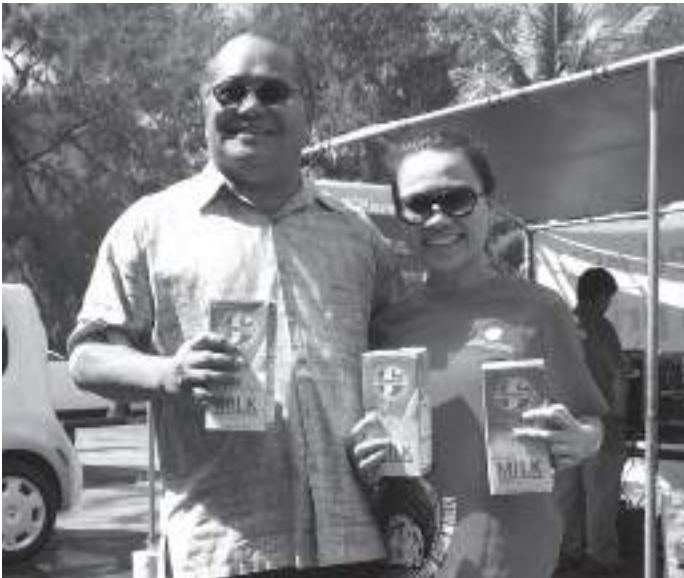
The chief executives' acknowledged Camacho's concerns and proceeded to open the floor for discussion among the remaining heads of state.

All the remaining members agreed with the resolution proposed by Fitia and without any lengthy discussion, the members moved to vote on the measure. With Camacho observing the proceedings, the chief executives unanimously registered their support and approval of the CNMI governor's resolution.

The resolution was signed by President Johnson Toribiong (Palau), President Jurelang Zedkaia (Marshall Islands), President Emanuel Mori (FSM), Gov. Benigno R. Fitia (CNMI), Gov. Sebastian Anafal (Yap), Gov. Wesley Simina (Chuuk), Gov. John Ehsa (Pohnpei) and Acting Gov. Steven George (Kosrae). (Office of the CNMI Governor)

posed by Fitia and without any lengthy discussion, the members moved to vote on the measure. With Camacho observing the proceedings, the chief executives unanimously registered their support and approval of the CNMI governor's resolution.

## Foremost to host free milk sampling today, tomorrow



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Lt. Gov. Elos S. Inos and Glimpses subscriptions officer Rosalie Suguitan hold their free Foremost Non-Fat Milk during its launch at the Health and Wellness Fair last Nov. 20.

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Milk lovers have a reason to be jolly this weekend as Foremost Foods Saipan will conduct free sampling of its newest product at two major product retailers on island.

The Foremost Non-Fat Milk free sampling will be held today from 4pm to 6pm at Triple J Super Fresh Market and tomorrow at Joeten Hafadai Shopping Center in Garapan from 10am to noon.

Officially launched at the Health and Wellness Fair on Nov. 20, Foremost Non-Fat Milk was recently approved by the Women, Infant & Children Program.

Program beneficiaries with WIC voucher indicating "1 percent and skim milk" may select the Foremost Non-Fat Milk as a healthy substitute.

Studies show that non-fat milk is frequently considered superior to whole milk. One

study noted that an 8 oz of non-fat milk contains more protein, more calcium, more potassium, and less cholesterol.

Non-fat milk also reduces muscle damage, improves muscle recovery, refuels muscles with carbohydrates, as well as help regulate weight loss.

Glen D. Hunter, Transpacific International group business manager, is delighted to share the new healthy drink with the community.

"Non-fat milk offers all the health benefits of milk—without the fat. Milk is an important part of any diet and Foremost now offers a variety for those looking at lowering fat intake," he said.

Foremost Non-Fat Milk comes in quart size and is available in most retail stores in the CNMI.

For more information about the benefits of Foremost Non-Fat Milk, visit [www.coke-foremost.com](http://www.coke-foremost.com).

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2X4X18 - \$6.30	2X4X18 - \$8.70
2X4X20 - \$6.80	2X4X20 - \$9.60
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2X6X14 - \$7.60	2X6X14 - \$11.00
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# MCS students serenade elderly with holiday tunes

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Students from Mount Carmel School brought the Christmas spirit to the island's senior citizens yesterday morning with a repertoire of Christmas tunes and dance moves.

School president Margaret Delacruz said the 20 2nd graders and 21 12th graders were among the performers who will take part in the school's Christmas program slated for tonight.

"What the *man'amko* saw today is part of the students' performance for the Christmas program," she added.

Delacruz told *Saipan Tribune* that they have been visiting the center in the last five or six years. "At Mount Carmel, we



CLARISSA V. DAVID  
Second grade students from Mount Carmel School sing yuletide carols for the *man'amko* yesterday morning at the Aging Center. Twenty-one second graders and 20 12th graders participated in the school's annual visit to the island's elders.

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\* Ford Ranger total price \$17,995 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 10.25% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$307.62 or \$142 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price \$18,457.20. Documentation fees and registration not included.



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believe where our roots are. All of us have parents and grandparents and that's how we get molded from their example. I think it is only fair in our part to give back a little bit of who we are to the elders," Delacruz explained.

"We hope that the little presentation that we have for them brightened their day," she added.

Seven-year old Maria Ayuyay said it was her first time to perform at the center. "I'm happy I did it. It's my Christmas gift for them," she added.

Second grader Raymalyn Guanlao said she was happy to spend time with the *man'amko*. "I think they're happy that we sang for them. I wish them merry Christmas," she said.

Saipan Seniors Advisory Council chair Teresita Sorroza said the *man'amko* appreciate the outstanding performances of the Mount Carmel students. She gave credit not only to the students but also those who trained them for their presentations.

"They're very talented kids and they gave a beautiful performance. We thank them for making our Christmas a very memorable one," she said.

## FOA stages hilarious adaptation of Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol'

From tonight until Sunday night, Friends of the Arts will provide a humorous twist to the holidays with the staging of *The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townwomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of a Christmas Carol*.

The production will begin at 7pm each night at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater.

It is a hilarious adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*, the novel written by Charles Dickens.

Friends of the Arts board president Susan Fishman-Tudor said the group was trying to decide on what show to stage for Christmas when they came across the opportunity the Farndale production.

"We were looking at something that was much more humorous," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Fishman-Tudor, who serves as line producer for the play, noted the significance of comic entertainment during hard times. "This play will help a lot of people get into the Christmas spirit. We need a little Christmas at this time."

Tickets for the show are available for purchase at the venue and will cost \$15 for adults, \$12 for Friends of the Arts adults, and \$10 for students. Admission to Sunday's performance is by donation of any canned or dry goods as well as cash. Proceeds will benefit the Salvation Army.

According to Fishman-Tudor, they have been doing benefit performances for about five years. (Clarissa David)



# Tinian gets more time to solve its landfill problems

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**TINIAN**—The Tinian Municipality has been granted a reprieve in its efforts to comply with environmental regulations governing its municipal dump, according to Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz yesterday.

Dela Cruz said his office was supposed to address the problems cited by the Division of Environmental Quality by November but he asked the agency to give him more time and this was granted.

"We committed serious violations on our dumping site and I have asked DEQ for consideration. We appealed for an extension and they approved it. We're now working aggressively to address all these environmental concerns because these also pose major health hazards for our people," he said yesterday.

The division had cited the municipality for violating numerous environmental regulations in the operation of the island's dump. It issued an administrative order mandating the resolution of concerns within 30 days, which expired in November.

Dela Cruz disclosed that among the regulations that were violated were open dumping provisions, non-segregation of garbage, lack of adequate place for proper dumping site, and many more.

Dela Cruz said that funding



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Tinian resident Jesse Aquiningoc points to the pile of garbage improperly dumped at the municipality's dumping area during Saipan Tribune's visit to the site yesterday. Tinian was cited by Division of Environmental Quality for serious violations of the environmental regulations. The 30-day administrative order recently expired.

remains the main stumbling block toward resolution of the problem. For heavy equipment alone, the municipality needs over \$2 million.

"DEQ originally gave us 30 days to resolve it...but we cannot do that because, besides not having enough manpower, we badly need the heavy equipment for the dumpsite. That's the major problem and is holding us back from fully resolving these environmental issues," he said.

The municipality is eyeing a portion of its \$7 million capital improvement project funds for fiscal year 2011 to procure heavy equipment but the Executive Branch needs to initiate the reprogramming of funds to

make this happen.

To date, Dela Cruz said his office has hired some individuals—using the municipality's revolving fund—to specifically work on the landfill. He also asked DEQ to train his people on how to maintain compliance with regulations.

Dela Cruz is crossing his fingers that funds will be reprogrammed as soon as possible for the heavy equipment need of the dump.

"I am very optimistic on the positive action from the [Tinian legislative] delegation and the administration on this matter... because we will all be held accountable for this violations if they will not help us," he said.

Then mayor Jose San Nico-

las declared a state of disaster emergency on Tinian in November 2006 due to the government's failure to close Tinian's unsafe

dump for over eight years. The municipality was cited by both federal and local agencies for repeated environmental violations.

Due to the still unrealized new landfill for Tinian, Dela Cruz said they are forced to keep the existing dump running despite its condition.

A visit to the area yesterday showed garbage scattered all over the site, and an open and unsafe dumping area for various types of waste.

## 'What happened to landfill proposal?'

Once the permanent landfill project is completed, the existing dump will be closed but Dela Cruz could not predict as to when this will happen as this has been on the table for many years now.

"Both request for proposal have been sent out...[for trans-

fer station and landfill] and would soon move forward," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The new landfill will be built within the area being leased by the U.S. military but it will be closed during construction and training exercises.

"The military already agreed to that...and that's why we need to build the transfer station where the garbage and waste will be temporarily dumped," he said, optimistic that the selection of a contractor will be the next step for the project.

The Tinian landfill project has an approved funding of \$5.4 million, of which \$4 million is from 702 funds while the rest are CIP funds.

This project has already cost close to \$800,000 to develop the environmental impact assessment.

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## Conference Agenda

- 7:30 – 8:30 am Registration & Refreshments**
- 8:30 – 8:40 am Opening Remarks**  
Eric L. Plinske  
*President, SHRM CNMI Chapter*  
*Branch Manager, StayWell Saipan, Inc.*
- 8:40 – 9:00 am Perspectives on Health Care Reform**  
Katherine Dote, SPHR  
*State Director, SHRM Pacific Council (Guam & CNMI)*  
*Director of Human Resources, Guam Marriott Resort & Spa*
- 9:00 – 9:30 am The Importance of Health Care Reform for the CNMI**  
The Honorable Gregorio Kili Camacho Sablan  
*Congressman for the CNMI, United States House of Representatives*
- 9:30 – 10:00 am Impact of Health Care Reform on Public Health & Medical Referral**  
■ Joseph Kevin Villagomez, Health Secretary  
*CNMI Department of Public Health*
- 10:00 – 10:15 am 15 Minute Break**
- 10:15 – 11:30 am Major Changes in the Health Insurance Industry**  
*Panel Speakers:*  
■ Frank Campillo, Health Plan Administrator  
*Calvo's SelectCare Health Plans*  
■ Donald B. Davis, President & CEO  
*StayWell Guam, Inc.*  
■ Francis E. Santos, Associate Administrator  
*StayWell Guam, Inc.*  
■ Gina Ramos, Chief of Staff  
*TakeCare Insurance Company*  
■ Jerry Crisostomo, Plan Administrator  
*Moylan's NetCare Life & Health Insurance*

### TOPICS

What are the major insurance benefit changes? ■ Is health insurance required? ■ What are "grandfather rules" and how do they affect you? ■ What will be the impact on rates? What happens in 2014? ■ Questions & Answers

- 11:30 – 12:00 noon Regulating the CNMI Health Insurance Industry**  
Sixto Igisomar, Acting Secretary of Commerce/Insurance Commissioner  
*CNMI Department of Commerce*
- 12:00 – 1:15 pm Lunch**
- 1:15 – 1:45 pm Changes in the Medicare Program**  
Bridget M. Camacho, District Manager  
*U. S. Social Security Administration – Saipan Office*
- 1:45 – 2:15 pm Impact of Health Care Reform on the CNMI Medicaid Program**  
Helen C. Sablan, Administrator  
*CNMI Medicaid Program*
- 2:15 – 3:30 pm Perspectives from CNMI Private Health Care Providers**  
*Panel Speakers:*  
■ Dr. Norma Ada, Physician/Owner  
*Medical Associates of the Pacific*  
■ Thelma Cabrera, Operations Manager  
*Marianas Medical Center*  
■ George Cruz, President  
*Marianas Health Services*  
■ Natalie Codianne, Pharmacist  
*PHI Pharmacy*
- 3:30 pm Summary & Closing Remarks**  
Polly DLG Masga  
*Vice President / President Elect, SHRM CNMI Chapter*  
*Human Resources Manager, Pacific Islands Club Saipan*

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# Gomez wins 'Idol' contest on Tinian



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino managing director Alfred Yue poses with Stephanie Gomez, who emerged champion in the first-ever Spot On Idol competition on Tinian on Wednesday night.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**TINIAN**—Spot On Bar and Karaoke Lounge made history Wednesday night with the staging of its first major event dubbed "Spot On Idol," with Stephanie Gomez being named champion of the singing competition.

Gomez went home with \$300 cash, a trophy, and a plaque after besting nine other contenders. The 24-year-old single mother was also given a roundtrip ticket to Saipan and shirt.

"It feels really good... because I was not expecting to win," she told *Saipan Tribune* after the event that saw hundreds in attendance.

Gomez wowed the judges with her rendition of Evanescence's *Bring Me To Life* in the final set of the competition. She said it was actually her sister who egged her to join the contest. "It's my sister's idea...and so I tried it for fun."

Second prize winner was Jeffrey Boado, who sang Bon Jovi's *Bed of Roses*. Junie Pulistico was third for his performance of Martin Nievera's *Be My Lady*. The two went home with \$200 and \$100 cash awards respectively, plus individual trophies, plaques, and roundtrip tickets courtesy of Star Marianas.

Consolation prizes of \$50 and gift items were given to the other contestants: Danilo Gilber, Tess Salazar, Romela Carbonel,

Kim Boldt, Jonathan San Nicolas, Mylene Reyes, and Greg Dela Rosa.

Event coordinator Alma Canlas also attributed the success of the first "Spot On Idol" to major sponsors Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Star Marianas Air Inc., Star Marianas Aviation School Inc., Marianas Air Trans., Monster Pizza Pub, Mayor's Office, Tinian Transportation Management Solutions, Liang Wei Bin, Alfred



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Third prize awardee Junie Pulistico receives the cash prize and trophy from Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz.

Yue, Mr. & Mrs. Bob Christian, and Susan's Creation.

### State-of-the art sound system

Because of the encouraging turnout and overwhelming support they got for "Spot On Idol," Canlas said they are planning to hold the event annually.

"At first, we didn't know that it will be this big...so we're going to organize it better next year. This is really a good idea for the people of Tinian and the talents that we have," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

The 10 finalists were chosen from the competition's preliminary rounds, during which two winners were selected every week for five successive weeks.

Spot On Bar & Karaoke Lounge boasts of a state-of-the-art sound system, updated list of songs, big TV monitors, and newly renovated space inside the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, right, awards the second prize honor to Jeffrey Boado during Wednesday's Spot on Idol competition on Tinian. Also in photo is event coordinator Alma Canlas.





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## Sessions

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- December 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>

**Ages** 4 to 13 years  
**Time** 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.  
 (extended care up to 5:00p.m. is free)  
**Where** Mariana Resort & Spa

## Local Price

**Daily:** \$ 30.00  
**Weekly:** \$125.00  
**Two Weeks:** \$ 195.00  
 (Lunch - \$5.00 per day or bring your own.)

**Camp activities:** Swimming Lessons, Go Karts, Kayaking, Snorkeling, Volleyball, Mountain Biking, Movie Making, Horseback Riding, Ocean Safety, Golf, Field Trips, Arts and Crafts, and more!

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<b>NOKIA E65</b> GSM \$199.00	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <p><b>MS VILLAGOMEZ BLDG.</b></p> <p><b>PHONE STORE</b></p> <p><b>CHALAN, KANOA, BEACH ROAD</b></p> <p>← To San Antonio</p> <p>POST OFFICE</p> <p>To Garapan →</p> </div> <div> <p><b>BUSINESS HOURS:</b> Monday to Saturday 10:00am to 8:00pm • Sunday: 11 am to 5 pm</p> <p><b>We REPAIR Cell Phones</b></p> <p><b>We also take orders</b></p> <p><b>WE ALSO SELL BRAND NEW, USED CELL PHONES &amp; ACCESORIES</b></p> <p>P.O. Box-505635 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel #:234-6666</p> </div> <div> <p><b>ALL NEW &amp; USED PHONES, CAMERAS, ACCESSORIES &amp; LAPTOPS</b></p> <p><b>10%-20% OFF</b></p> </div> </div>											



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As you walk by the lobby, Hyatt Regency Saipan welcomes you with a tall Christmas tree adorned in both red and gold. Embrace the holiday spirit as you listen to classic carols in the Lobby Lounge, where traditional Christmas cocktails are available all season long.

Then experience the seasonal aroma of the Gingerbread House as you walk by DJ's Corner. If that makes you hungry, allow us to do all the cooking for you this year as we prepare the season's classic dishes, including turkey and ham, with Hyatt's "Feasts to Go."

Hyatt Regency Saipan also wishes all its guests a warm "Season's Greetings" with a celebratory array of Christmas Eve

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Children are more than welcome to build memories that will last longer than this holiday break as Hyatt Regency Saipan launches the annual "Christmas Camp Hyatt." During this special event, children ages 3 to 12 are invited to explore, experience, create and play the Camp Hyatt way.

Hyatt has tailored an authentic Christmas Camp Hyatt experience with one-day, one-week, two-week and three-week packages. One of every 10 children who register for the three-week package will receive a special Camp Hyatt T-shirt, as well as be able to bring a friend along for a complimentary week of fun.

Feel the touch of Christmas only at Hyatt Regency Saipan. Book now and make this season unforgettable; call +670 234 1234 for more information. (PR)

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**  
Belated happy birthday to Nikita Robert! May the Lord bless you! We love you! And happy 3rd birthday to Fernando Serafin Robert Jr., who is celebrating his birthday today, Dec. 17, 2010. May the Lord bless you on your special day! We love you! Greetings come from your family in Upper Matuis.



**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**  
Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Yuumi Yamasaki who celebrated her birthday on Oct. 10, 2010! Also, belated birthday greetings go out to Mr. Norihiko Yamasaki, who celebrated his birthday on Oct. 12, 2010. Greetings coming out from your Arurang family on Saipan. God bless you two and may you have many more birthdays to come.



**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**  
A very happy birthday greeting goes out to Kimiko "Kimmy" Wally, who celebrates her birthday today, Dec. 17! May you have a fun-filled, awesomely great and wonderful day and may your contagious smile continue to bring smiles to everyone around you! Wishing you many more birthdays to come, and hoping that all your birthday wishes come true! Much love coming out from your family and friends and MHS STUCO crew!



**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**  
Happy birthday greetings to Olympia Borja Marcelo aka "Pia," who is celebrating her special day today! Kick off your shoes, take a break, crank the tunes, dance and shake, light the candles, cut the cake. Make it a day that's simply great! Happy birthday! Greetings come from your families and friends.

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# Business

## Halfway home: Senate sends tax-rate bill to House

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a reach across party lines, the Senate overwhelmingly passed sweeping legislation Wednesday to prevent a Jan. 1

income tax increase for millions and to renew jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed. A House vote is expected by Thursday.

Within moments of the 81-19 Senate vote, President Barack Obama urged the House to follow suit without making any changes—a slap at rebellious

liberals working to stiffen the terms of an estate tax provision they characterize as a giveaway to millionaires and billionaires.

“I know there are different aspects of this plan to which members of Congress, on both sides of the aisle,

object,” Obama said. “That’s the nature of compromise. But we worked hard to negotiate an agreement that’s a win for middle-class families and a win for our economy. And we can’t afford to let it fall victim to either delay or defeat.”

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Feds sue BP, other companies for oil spill damages

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The Justice Department sued BP and several other companies involved in the Gulf oil spill Wednesday, an opening salvo in the government’s effort to get billions of dollars for untold economic and environmental damage. The government accuses the companies of disregarding federal safety regulations in drilling the well that blew out April 20 and triggered a deadly explosion on the Deepwater Horizon rig. The lawsuit is separate from a Justice Department

criminal probe that has not resulted in any charges. “The department’s focus on investigating this disaster and preventing future (spills) is not over,” Attorney General Eric Holder said during a news conference in Washington. “Both our civil and criminal investigations are ongoing.”

#### Stores try to create shopping surge in final days

NEW YORK (AP)—You won’t find uncommonly deep discounts, but you won’t have to worry about finding something to buy, either.

For the first time in three years, the Christmas season is looking brighter for stores and shoppers alike. With plenty of dollars remaining to be spent, stores are trying to attract late shoppers with measured discounts and other gimmicks, including pulling all-nighters and pushing more last-minute gifts. Consumers are more primed to spend than they have been in several years. Projections for holiday spending are starting to approach pre-recession levels. The National Retail Federation and research firm ShopperTrak both raised

their holiday forecasts this week.

#### Panel questions safety of lap children on planes

WASHINGTON (AP)—A federal advisory panel recommended steps Wednesday that could end the practice of having very young children in their parents’ laps when flying. The Federal Aviation Administration has the final say on regulations governing the airline industry, but a 19-member advisory panel said the federal agency should look at whether it would be safer to have children belted into their

own seats instead of being in their parents’ laps. Putting children into their own seats or using child seats requires the purchase of an extra ticket at most airlines. The recommendation was among 23 items identified by the panel, appointed a year ago by Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood to find ways to bolster the chronically ailing airline industry and fix some of its more pressing problems. It also called for government aid to help airlines equip planes for a new air traffic control system, among other issues at the top of the industry’s wish list.

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# Nation

## House votes to repeal ban on open gays in military

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House voted Wednesday to repeal the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy that for 17 years has forced gays desiring to serve in the military to conceal their sexual identity. The 250-175 vote propels the issue to the Senate for what could be the last chance for now to end the 1993 law that forbids recruiters from asking about sexual orientation while prohibiting soldiers from acknowledging that they are gay.

It’s “the only law in the country that requires people to be dishonest or be fired if they

choose to be honest,” said Rep. Jared Polis, D-Colo.

Democratic leaders in the Senate say they are committed to bringing the bill to the floor before Congress adjourns for the year. But they are challenged by opposition from some Republicans and a daunting agenda that includes finishing work on legislation to fund the government and ratifying a nuclear arms treaty with Russia.

Failure to overturn the policy this year could relegate the issue to the back burner next year when Republicans, who are far

less supportive of allowing openly gay individuals to serve in the military, take over the House and gain strength in the Senate.

“Now is the time for us to act,” said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and “close the door on a fundamental unfairness in our nation.”

Many Republicans, led by

Sen. John McCain of Arizona, argue that it would be a mistake for the military to undergo a major cultural change while the nation is fighting two wars.

Implementation of any new policy should begin “when our singular focus is no longer on combat operations or prepar-

ing units for combat,” said Rep. Howard “Buck” McKeon of California, top Republican on the Armed Services Committee.

The issue also has split the military. Defense Secretary Robert Gates and other senior military leaders support lifting the restrictions on gay service,

pointing to a recent Pentagon study showing that most people in uniform don’t object to serving with gays. But the head of the Marine Corps, Commandant Gen. James Amos, repeated his opposition this week, saying that lifting the ban during wartime could cost lives.

## Senate kicks off debate over US-Russia arms treaty

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate plunged into debate on a new U.S.-Russia arms control treaty Wednesday after Democrats secured the backing of a

significant number of Republicans in a crucial test vote of President Barack Obama’s top foreign policy priority.

The White House and senior

Democrats have expressed confidence that they had the two-thirds majority needed for ratification in the Senate. In a fresh sign of momentum, Democrats easily prevailed, 66-32, to move forward on the pact, winning the support of nine Republicans. Among the GOP senators was Sen. John McCain of Arizona, Obama’s 2008 presidential rival and a top lawmaker on national security issues.

Obama has said he is prepared to delay a planned holiday vacation until the treaty is completed, elevating the measure to year-end, must-do status along with the tax deal he cut with Republicans. Democrats are determined to push the treaty through the Senate in hopes of giving Obama a foreign policy victory before the GOP grabs more power next year.

“We believe we should stay here as long as it takes to get this treaty ratified, and we are prepared to do so,” said Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry, D-Mass.

Still, several Republicans, led by Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., objected to considering the treaty in the waning days of Congress’

lame-duck session, insisting the Senate should wait until next year. Sens. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee and Saxby Chambliss of Georgia said they could support the treaty but not under the current timetable. Alexander told reporters it was “reckless.”

Speaking for the treaty before Democrats took their turn, Republican Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana said the treaty “will enable American teams to return to Russia to collect data on the Russian arsenal and verify Russian compliance. These inspections greatly reduce the possibility that we will be surprised by Russian nuclear deployments or advancements.”

U.S. weapons inspections ended a year ago with the expiration of the 1991 arms control treaty.

Angry accusations marked the hours before the vote as Republicans threatened to force the treaty, signed in April, to be read aloud in the Senate, which would have delayed consideration. The White House called the GOP out on the maneuver, with press secretary Robert Gibbs assailing it as a “new low in putting political stunts ahead of our national security.”

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Rare immigration bills pass Congress

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Congress has taken the unusual step of waiving immigration restrictions for two Japanese citizens fighting to live in the United States. The “private bills” passed by the House on Wednesday—they had already been passed by the Senate—are the first to be approved in more than five years. The measures now go to President Barack Obama for his signature. One bill would clear the way for the granting of legal status to the widow of a Tennessee Marine who gave birth to their son after he was killed in Iraq in 2008. Another would provide relief to a Japanese man living in California whose mother was killed in a car crash when he was a teenager and who was never legally adopted. “I have always seen myself as part of this whole American society, and I am American, just like my friends but without the status or papers,” said the man, Shigeru Yamada, now 28. “For me to finally become, or have the potential to become a permanent resident, it means a great deal to me, it really does. I can’t really express how happy I am.”

#### Mom shot at strip mall used body to protect son, 2

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—A mother loading her 2-year-old son into an SUV used her body to protect the toddler before she was shot and killed in an ensuing midday gunbattle at a Sacramento strip mall, sheriff’s officials said Wednesday. Monique Nelson, 30, had just strapped her son into his car seat when she was struck in the chest Tuesday, and detectives believe she positioned herself to protect her son, Sacramento County Sheriff’s Sgt. Tim Curran said. “She was found with her body over the young child,” he said. “So we believe she did hear the gunfire.” A second victim, 20-year-old Marvion Barksdale, also died from injuries suffered in the shootout after being taken to a hospital where he underwent surgery for a chest wound, Curran said Wednesday. Five other men were injured in the gunfight. All are expected to survive.

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## Asia

## Malaysia Parliament suspends opposition's Anwar

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia** (AP)—Malaysia's ruling coalition won a parliamentary vote Thursday to ban its archrival Anwar Ibrahim from the legislature for six months.

The opposition leader was accused of making false statements in Parliament by claiming that the government's program to promote multiracial unity in this Muslim-majority country was inspired by a 1999 Israeli election campaign.

Lawmakers are expected to endorse another proposal later Thursday to suspend three of Anwar's top allies for six

months because of protocol infractions.

The move would erode the opposition's representation to less than one-third of the 222-member Parliament for the first time since March 2008 general elections.

That could allow Prime Minister Najib Razak's National Front coalition to make changes to the constitution and election constituency boundaries before the next polls, which some expect next year.

Anwar and dozens of other opposition legislators stormed out of Parliament's lower house

during Thursday's vote. Some held posters denouncing the lower house as "a kangaroo court" because they claimed Anwar was unfairly targeted.

Anwar and his colleagues who face suspension would be barred from parliamentary debates and votes through June, but they can continue other political work, such as addressing rallies. The opposition has already launched efforts to convince the public that the government is abusing its legislative majority.

The three opposition lawmakers face suspension for leaking

information about a parliamentary investigation into Anwar's remarks about Israel, which he made in March.

Political activity has intensified amid rampant rumors that Najib will call for national polls next year, even though they are

not due until mid-2013. Najib might seek to capitalize on internal bickering in Anwar's three-party alliance, which made spectacular gains in 2008 elections but has since lost some of its luster.

Anwar has also been distract-

ed by an ongoing trial on charges that he sodomized a male former aide in 2008. He faces a 20-year prison sentence if convicted of the accusation, which he insists was fabricated to stem his political ascent. The government denies any conspiracy.

## Boat smashed on Australian cliff; 28 migrants die

**SYDNEY** (AP)—Australians on a high cliff watched helplessly Wednesday as a wooden boat smuggling as many as 100 would-be migrants was smashed against the jagged rocks by monstrous waves, dumping screaming men, wom-

en and children into the stormy surf. At least 28 people died and 44 were rescued.

The deaths off Christmas Island, a remote Australian territory, underscored the dangers faced by hundreds of refugees who have tried to sail from Indonesia to Australia in recent years—often in cramped, barely seaworthy boats—to start new lives after escaping from poor, war-ravaged countries.

Photos and video from witnesses showed the boat crashing into jagged rocks and breaking apart, as well as people floating in the water amid the wreckage. The boat was about 20 to 30 feet (6 to 9 meters) long, with a cabin covered by a sheet of fabric or plastic.

"When the boat hit the cliff, there was a sickening crack. All the people on board rushed to the land side, which is the worst thing they could do, but I don't think anybody could swim," island resident Simon Prince told The Associated Press.

"It was just horrible," he said. "People getting crushed. Bod-

ies, dead children, the whole thing was pretty awful."

Some of those aboard were from Iraq, Home Minister Brendan O'Connor said from Christmas Island, which is closer to Indonesia than the Australian mainland.

In Canberra, Immigration Minister Chris Bowen said 28 people died and 44 have been rescued. Of those saved, 11 were children.

Rescuers were returning to treacherous seas Thursday to hunt for any possible survivors, though sea conditions were still dangerous as a cyclone hovered northwest of the island.

"Rescuers will be doing their best over the course of the morning to salvage and rescue any person still in the water and to get any bodies we can get out of the water," Bowen told Sky News.

Bowen said that up to 100 people could have been aboard the vessel, although O'Connor said the exact number is still unknown and a rescue effort would resume at dawn Thursday for any survivors.

## ASIAN BRIEFS

## Missing Nepal plane found, all 22 onboard dead

**KATMANDU, Nepal** (AP)—Rescuers have recovered the wreckage of a small passenger plane that went missing in Nepal's mountainous east on Wednesday. They say all 22 people onboard were killed. The Rescue Coordination Committee at Katmandu Airport said Thursday that rescuers were searching through the wreckage. The Canadian-built Twin Otter aircraft belonging to domestic Tara Air was carrying 19 passengers and three crew members from Lamidanda, about 200 miles (320 kilometers) to the east of Katmandu. Its wreckage was found near a village about 100 miles (160 kilometers) from Katmandu.

## Philippine, HK officials to discuss hostage fiasco

**HONG KONG** (AP)—Philippine officials will hold talks with counterparts in Hong Kong on Thursday to discuss follow-up action over the Manila bus hostage crisis in which eight Chinese died. The Hong Kong government said Wednesday that a delegation led by Philippine Tourism Secretary Alberto Lim will meet Hong Kong Chief Executive Donald Tsang. The Aug. 23 hostage fiasco strained ties between Manila and Hong Kong. The events, which were televised live, shocked the Chinese territory and thousands of tourists canceled bookings in Philippine resorts.

## Bill Richardson stops in Beijing on way to NKorea

**BEIJING** (AP)—New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson has arrived in Beijing on his way to Pyongyang as part of stepped-up U.S. diplomacy to cool tensions on the Korean peninsula. Richardson's stopover Thursday comes shortly before talks in the Chinese capital between U.S. Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg and Chinese State Councilor Dai Bingguo. Beijing's top foreign policy official returned last week from talks in Pyongyang with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il. Richardson, a former ambassador to the United Nations, often acts as a diplomatic troubleshooter and makes regular visits to North Korea. Fears of war on the divided Korean peninsula have intensified since North Korea bombarded a South Korean front-line island last month, killing four people.

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# World

## UN lifts key sanctions against Iraq

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)**—The U.N. Security Council gave a unanimous vote of confidence Wednesday to the significant strides Iraq has taken by lifting 19-year-old sanctions on weapons and civilian nuclear power.

The council also decided to return control of Iraq's oil and natural gas revenue to the government next summer and to settle all remaining claims over the controversial oil-for-food program, which helped ordinary Iraqis cope with sanctions imposed after Saddam Hussein's army invaded Kuwait two decades ago.

Although some sanctions will remain in place until Iraq and Kuwait settle outstanding issues from that war, Wednesday's vote was a major step to restore Iraq's international standing a year before the U.S. is to pull its last troops out of the country. It came a day after a power-sharing agreement ended a lengthy deadlock on forming a new Iraqi government.

Vice President Joe Biden, who presided over the meeting, told the council the move marked "an important milestone for the government of Iraq and people of Iraq in their ongoing effort to leave behind their troubled past and embrace a much brighter future."

"The three resolutions we've passed bring an end to the burdensome remnants of the dark era

of Saddam Hussein," he said.

Biden's presence was a sign of the importance the Obama administration gave to the vote. The U.S. holds the Security Council presidency this month.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari said the adoption of the resolutions "marks the beginning of the end of the sanctions regime and restrictions on Iraq's sovereignty, independence and recovery."

"Our key focus has been to unburden Iraq from the heavy legacy of non-compliance with international law and to break its isolation and regain its rightful place among the community of nations," he told the council.

Zebari said in an interview with The Associated Press that Biden's presence and the resolutions "showed continued American engagement with Iraq—that it's not abandoned."

Iraq has been pressing the Security Council for several years to end sanctions and cancel more than 70 resolutions adopted after Saddam's war against Kuwait.

Zebari said following the council's votes Wednesday only about a dozen resolutions remain, all related to outstanding issues between Iraq and Kuwait.

The council expressed confidence in Iraq's commitments to nonproliferation by lifting sanc-

tions against acquiring weapons of mass destruction and long-range missiles or pursuing a civilian nuclear power program.

Iraq's constitution bars the country from acquiring weapons of mass destruction, and Baghdad is a party to most of the main nuclear, chemical, biological and missile treaties.

The council had said in February that it would lift the ban on Iraq's use of civilian nuclear power after it ratified several additional international treaties along with a protocol that allows the International Atomic Energy Agency to carry out unannounced inspections.

## Julian Assange back in court to fight for bail

**LONDON (AP)**—WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange was due back in British court Thursday to fight for bail following a week of legal drama which has seen prosecutors challenge a judge's decision to free him.

Assange was granted a conditional release on 200,000 pounds (\$316,000) bail Tuesday, but prosecutors are trying to keep him behind bars and appealed the decision to London's High Court.

Assange has already spent more than a week in prison following his surrender to British police over a Swedish sex-crimes warrant. He denies any wrongdoing but has refused to voluntarily surrender to Swe-

den's request to extradite him for questioning.

Supporters of the 39-year-old Australian say the charges are trumped up and possibly politically motivated.

Assange's British lawyer, Mark Stephens, said Wednesday that "somebody has it in for Julian Assange and we only can conjecture why."

But lawyer Gemma Lindfield, acting for Sweden, told Tuesday's hearing at the City of Westminster Magistrates' Court that Assange faced serious allegations and may abscond if granted bail.

She said he is accused of rape, molestation and unlawful coercion by two women for separate

incidents in August. Assange has yet to be charged.

His lawyers say the allegations stem from a dispute over "consensual but unprotected sex" and argue that he has offered to make himself available for questioning via video link or in person in Britain.

Lindfield also rejected attempts to link Assange's case with the work of WikiLeaks—which last month deeply angered U.S. officials by beginning to publish its trove of 250,000 secret U.S. diplomatic cables.

"This is not a case about WikiLeaks, rather a case about alleged serious offenses against two women," Lindfield said.

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### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Chavez foes, US condemn plan for decree powers

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)**—President Hugo Chavez is neutralizing efforts by Venezuela's opposition to impose checks on his power, using a friendly lame-duck congress to seek broad authority to enact laws by decree for the next year. The plan drew strong criticism Wednesday from the U.S. government and Venezuelan opponents who called it a blow to democracy. For almost five years, Chavez has enjoyed near total control of the National Assembly thanks to a strategic blunder by his foes, who boycotted 2005 elections. That untrammelled power comes to an end Jan. 5 when a new congress arrives, with enough opposition lawmakers to hinder some types of major legislation.

#### Bill Clinton asserts confidence in fed-up Haiti

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)**—Former U.S. President Bill Clinton declared his confidence in Haiti's post-quake reconstruction effort Wednesday, making a one-day visit amid civil unrest, rampant disease and a seemingly intractable political crisis. The U.N. special envoy to Haiti traveled to the troubled country a day after the interim reconstruction commission of which he is co-chairman was forced to hold its meeting in the neighboring Dominican Republic after violence broke out following Haiti's disputed Nov. 28 presidential election. Clinton visited a cholera clinic run by Doctors Without Borders that has treated some of the more than 100,000 people sickened in the epidemic that broke out in October. He then went to the main U.N. peacekeeping base for meetings with Haitian and international officials.

#### Anti-austerity riots erupt amid Greece strike

**ATHENS, Greece (AP)**—Protesters fought running battles with riot police in central Athens, torching cars, hurling gasoline bombs and sending Christmas shoppers fleeing as tens of thousands took to the streets during a general strike against the government's latest austerity measures. Police repeatedly fired tear gas and flash grenades as the Wednesday riots—some of the worst since Greece's debt crisis broke a year ago—escalated outside parliament and spread to other parts of the city center. At least 28 people were injured, including 23 policemen and a conservative former minister who was beaten in the street by protesters.



# Off The Wall

## Postal worker arrested after delivering mail naked

**WHITEFISH BAY, Wis.** (AP)—A Wisconsin postal carrier says he simply wanted to cheer up a woman on his rounds who seemed “stressed out” when he decided to deliver mail

in the buff. But upon further review, the worker told police that delivering mail while completely naked probably wasn't a good idea.

A police report says the

52-year-old man told the woman he would deliver the mail in the nude to her office in Whitefish Bay to make her laugh. The report says that on Dec. 4 he brought the mail wearing only a smile.

The mail carrier was arrested for lewd and lascivious behavior

several days later. The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* says the man ad-

mitted delivering the mail naked was a stupid thing to do.

## Police: Ga. college instructor stripped in class

**KENNESAW, Ga.** (AP)—Students in a Kennesaw State University business class got an anatomy lesson.

Campus police say a part-time instructor took his clothes off while teaching a class at the suburban Atlanta college late last month. Police ar-

rested 57-year-old Raymond Devaughn Taylor of Kennesaw on Monday and charged him with public indecency after a student reported what happened to university officials.

Taylor was released from jail Tuesday on \$5,000 bond.

A woman who answered

the phone at Taylor's home Wednesday declined comment and said the instructor wasn't interested in talking.

University officials said Taylor, who worked in Kennesaw State University's business department on a contract basis, will no longer teach at the college.

### OFFBEAT BRIEFS

#### Order up! Ohio diner serves up wedding ceremony

**MARSHALLVILLE, Ohio** (AP)—Guests sat in booths, not church pews, for a wedding at an Ohio diner where the bride and groom often go for breakfast. Tim Shoenfelt proposed to Hallie Richwine in March in the parking lot of Deb's Heavenly Hash Diner in Marshallville, 40 miles south of

Cleveland. They returned Saturday to exchange vows there. The new wife tells The Daily Record of Wooster the diner seemed like the perfect wedding spot because it's one of their favorite places. She met her husband 12 years ago at the University of Akron. They left the area for jobs in other states but eventually returned to northeast Ohio and reconnected in 2008. The diner closed early for the ceremony. Owner Debbie Grayson took breakfast orders from the guests.

#### NYC bees turn red from cherry juice

**NEW YORK** (AP)—A bunch of Brooklyn bees have been coming home looking flushed. New York City beekeeper Cerrise Mayo was puzzled when her bees started showing up with mysterious red coloring. Their honey also turned as red as cough syrup. She tells The New York Times a friend joked that the bees were imbibing the runoff at Dell's Maraschino Cherries Company, in the Red Hook section of Brooklyn. Mayo - whose first name means “cherry” in French - raises bees in that neighborhood and across the water on Governor's Island. Tests confirmed the bees were riddled with Red Dye No. 40 - the same food coloring found in the cherry juice. Bee expert Andrew Cote tells the newspaper that bees had been creating a big nuisance at the factory. The solution? Put up screens or provide a closer source of sweet nectar.

#### NM clerk foils robbery with package of pastries

**DEMING, N.M.** (AP)—Robbers, beware of clerks wielding pastries. Police in Deming, N.M., say a clerk foiled a robbery last week when she hit the culprit on the back of the head with a package of empanadas, a type of Latin American pastry. Police say the masked man didn't say a word when he grabbed the cash register at Amigo's Mexican Food and tried to flee. Deming police Capt. Brandon Gigante says the man dropped the register when the clerk threw the pastries and hit him. Barbara Orquiz, who owns Amigo's with her husband, Arnold, says the cash register's cord got caught when the man tried to take it. The clerk saw him grab it, screamed and got him with the empanadas. Orquiz says the man was covering his head as he ran away.

#### Doc dressed as Elvis revives Vegas marathon runner

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—It wasn't

blue suede shoes but a pair of sneakers that led a San Francisco doctor dressed as Elvis Presley to a woman who passed out at a Las Vegas restaurant after a marathon. Claudio Palma tells the Las Vegas Review-Journal he was dressed as the King after Sunday's Las Vegas Rock 'n' Roll half-marathon when he performed CPR and resuscitated another runner at the Burger Bar at Mandalay Place. The 36-year-old was clad in a jumpsuit, sideburns and scarf for the race and may have looked like Presley, but in real life, he's an anesthesiologist. Palma says paramedics then arrived, and the woman gave him a weird look and told him she was OK. He says the incident wasn't the only heart-stopping one that day: he also got married at a run-thru chapel during the race.

#### Pa. woman rescued from pickup stuck in tree top

**EVANS CITY, Pa.** (AP)—Rescue crews had to use ropes and ladders to retrieve a western Pennsylvania woman from her pickup truck after it ran off a road and landed in tree tops about 30 feet above ground in a ravine. Police say they'll be citing 33-year-old Dana Bowser for driving too fast for conditions on Route 68 near Evans City. That's about 25 miles north of Pittsburgh. State police say Bowser lost control near a culvert that carries the highway over Connoquenessing Creek. Police say Bowser told them the road was icy. Rescue workers say Bowser was conscious and able to communicate with workers. Most importantly, they say she didn't panic as they worked to reach her in the precarious position. She was taken to Butler Memorial Hospital with minor injuries.

#### Man buckles in 'Diego' doll to drive in HOV lane

**SEATTLE** (AP)—Diego was a model passenger, sitting quietly with seat belt buckled, never fidgeting. But it was the huge, unblinking eyes that made a Washington state trooper suspicious. The state patrol says troopers were stationed Nov. 29 along an Interstate 405 onramp, pulling over people who were driving in the high occupancy lane with only one person in the car. That's when the odd “passenger” drew one trooper's notice. The patrol says the trooper stopped the car and found the driver had placed a stuffed Diego doll from the Nickelodeon children's show “Go, Diego, Go!” in the front passenger seat.

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Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana  
Ofisinan I Gubietno  
Dipáttamenton I Tano’ Pupbliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSIONS FOR PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (a) and (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to recommend the extensions of leases on certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. These lease extensions are subject to the approval of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature in accordance with the mandate set out in Article XI, § 5(c) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The leased premises are described as public land Lot Nos. 057 E 09, containing an area of approximately 3,245 square meters, more or less, and 057 E 10, containing an area of approximately 3,245 square meters, more or less, both situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- ii. The lessee is South Pacific Lumber Company, a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are James C. Whang and Charles C. Whang.  
  
The President/Secretary/Treasurer of the Corporation is James C. Whang. The Vice President is Charles C. Whang.
- iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mr. James C. Whang.
- iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of operating warehouses, office spaces and show rooms.  
  
The term of the lease agreement extensions is 15 years.  
  
The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the properties.
- v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in Lower Base, Saipan.
- vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before December 24, 2010 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN INEKSTENDEN INATKILON TANO’ PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i Dipattamenton Tano’ Pupbliku guini ha ná’i notisia ni intesion-ña para u rekomena i inekstenden inatkilon gi pumalu na táno’ pupbliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Este na inekstenden atkilon siha manmasuheto para i inapreban i Lehislaturan Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islan Marianas gi sigun ni mamánda ni mapega huyong gi Attikilu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion i Sangkattan na Islan Marianas siha. Maseha háyi na petsona siha gi halom i pupbliku henerát siña ha na’hålom i infotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñon kinentra siha gi tinahguen propositu siha ni para i atkilon táno’ pupbliku. Sigi más mo’ na mapribeniyi ginen i Lain Pupbliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesen infotmasion ni madimánda ni debí na u mapupblika.

- i. I lugát atkilon siha madeskribe komu tano’ pupbliku Lot Nos. 057 E 09, kinonsiste árian kási guaha 3,245 square meters, potlumenus más, yan 057 E10, kinonsiste ária kási guaha 3,245 square meters, potlumenus más, parehu gaige gi Lower Base, Saipan. I kopian i pumalu na lugát gaige na gumuaha gi Dipattamenton Tano’ Pupbliku siha ni para i rikonosimiento.
- ii. I manatikila i Kompanian i South Pacific Lumber, i CNMI Corporation. I Kuetpon i Direktot i Corporation siha si James C. Whang yan si Charles C. Whang.  
  
I Presidente/sekritário/Tresureron i Corporation si James C. Whang. I Segundo na Presidente si Charles C. Whang.
- iii. I mapropone na ekstension atkilon manegosio gi as Siñot James C. Whang.
- iv. I manatikila debi na u kontinua umusa i lugát siha uniku para i rason i maneran warehouses, kâmpon ofisina siha yan show rooms.  
  
I teman i kontrátan atkilon ha ekstende gi 15 años.  
  
I mapropone na atkilon sákkan duránten i tema sigun i percentaje gi bálen i fair market value gi propiadát siha.
- v. Kopian i manmapropone na ekstension atkilon na kontráta siha siña machule’ gi ofisinan i Dipattamenton Tano’ Pupbliku siha, gaige i segundo bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; Songsong, Luta; pat i primet 1st floor gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. I Dipattamenton Tano’ Pupbliku siha táya’ ha risibi tinahguen propositu siha para suheton atkilon táno’ pupbliku siha giya Lower Base, Saipan.
- vii. I Sekritáron i Dipattamenton Tano’ Pupbliku siha debi na u aksepta i tinige’ i infotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñon kinentra pat tinahguen propositu siha ginen i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat ántes di Disembre 24, 2010 gi ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano’ Pupbliku siha ni gaige Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Táilil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwilil Falúweer Toulap ekki atotoowow ammataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Kkapasal akkilon ye e sobwosobw nge ebwe alughulugh mereel Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature sangi Article XI, Talil 5(c) mellól Allégh Lapalap Commonwealth Teel faluw kka faluwasch Efang Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghiyghiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoorá, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekki bwáári Lot No. 057 E 09, eyoor eluww sangaras ruwabwughuw faigh me limwoow (3, 245 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, me 057 E 10, eyoor eluww sangaras ruwabwughuw faigh me limwoow (3,245 square meters) elap me ngare eghus, elo Lower Base, Seipel.. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngáre óubwe ghuley fischiy.
- ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge South Pacific Lumber Company, CNMI corporation. Schóóy Assamwoolul mwiisch (board of directors) mellól corporation nge James C. Whang me Charles C. Whang..  
  
Samwoolul/Treasurer/Sekkretorial corporation nge James C. Whang. Aruscheyil samwool nge Charles Whang.
- iii. Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Mr. James C. Whang..
- iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááli bwuley reel ammwelil warehouse (sokko), office spaces (leliyal bwulasiyo) me leliyal akkate (show rooms)..  
  
Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years).  
  
Pomwol akkilon yeel llól alongal ráágh nge ebwe mwir sáangi llapal méél falúw ( value of the property) me bwal meeta kka e akkayú mellol bwuley yeel.
- v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; Songson, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúlúyól.
- vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipél..
- vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal December 24, 2010 (Tumwur) mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta, Tchúlúyól.

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- ✓ Learn about your risks for getting HIV.
- ✓ Decide not to do the things that put you at risk.
- ✓ Practice safer methods to prevent HIV.
- ✓ Talk with family, friends, and colleagues about HIV prevention.
- ✓ Support people living with HIV.
- ✓ Volunteer at a local group that serves people living with HIV.
- ✓ Ask our leaders to increase their awareness and response to HIV.



For more Information, Testing and Confidential Services,  
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES  
VARIOUS REPAIRS at NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE (NMC), SAIPAN

RFP11-GOV-018

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Office, (collectively, “Commonwealth”) are soliciting sealed Proposals from qualified Consultants to provide A/E Design for the NMC Various Repairs located at the As Terlaje Saipan Campus, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The complete Scope of Work for the A/E services required will be available on Tuesday, November 24, 2010, at the Governor’s CIP Administrator’s Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the Governor’s Conference Room, Capitol Hill on Tuesday, November 30, 2010. Questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. James R. Stump, CIP Contracting Officer, or faxed to (670) 664-2408, no later than 4 p.m., ChST December 7, 2010.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and a Schedule of Completion, addressing the Scope of Work requirements with details of how the work will be performed and accomplished by the consultants, with the names of the responsible persons identified. Proposers shall also submit a statement of qualifications with resumes and experience for the responsible persons. The total proposal length shall not exceed twenty five (25) pages in length. Note that a firm which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, the consultant may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.

Qualifications and Experience on similar projects (25%)
2.

Project Approach (25%)
3.

Work load and resources to accomplish the work in the required timeframe (25%)
4.

Past performance with the CNMI Government on similar projects (25%)

Performance time for completion of the A/E design is One Hundred Sixty (160) calendar days upon issuance of a Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (US\$250.00) for each and every working day beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three (3) ranked firms. After a selection is made negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked “**RFP11-GOV-018, A/E Design for the various repairs at Northern Mariana College, Saipan**”. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP, no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST December 27, 2010. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST December 27, 2010, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than December 27, 2010, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than January 3, 2011. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/Eloy S. Inos, Lt. Governor, CNMI

/S/Herman S. Sablan, Director of Procurement & Supply



# Science & Technology

## 2010 sees Apple at pinnacle of tech industry

By JOHN BOUDREAU  
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

**SAN JOSE, Calif.**—As 2010 draws to a close, much of the tech world is struggling to regain its footing after a difficult recession. Then there's Apple.

Never before has this venerable company, which at age 34 is a grizzled veteran by Silicon Valley standards, stood so firmly atop the high tech industry. Earlier this year, Apple's market capitalization surpassed that of Microsoft, making it the most valuable property in the tech universe. And during its just-completed fiscal year, it broke four consecutive quarterly revenue and profit records. Amid the worst recession in decades, Apple hired thousands while others cut jobs.



But what most distinguishes Apple is the way it has climbed these heights. While other tech titans spent 2010 cutting costs and acquiring new technology through mergers, this \$65 billion company is innovating like a startup.

"It has a different cultural mind-set," said Charles Wolf, an analyst with Needham & Co. "They are acting like a start-up though they are becoming a \$100 billion company."

Its iPhone revolutionized the market for smart phones, the must-have product of the decade. Its iPad is now creating consumer electronics' most promising new market, for tablet computers.

"This past year has arguably been among Apple's best, if not the best,

year," Kaufman Brothers analyst Shaw Wu said.

Experts point to three key factors that drive Apple's relentless innovation: It invests heavily in R&D, is unafraid to cannibalize or kill its own products, and is able to extend its core technology across a host of different products to create a dominant ecosystem of consumer gadgets.

"Never in our history has one company done so much to drive personal technology," said Mark Gilmore, co-founder of Wired Integrations, a San Jose technology consulting firm. "IBM developed the PC, but that was really geared to businesses. Ford developed the assembly line to help consumers have more access to automobiles, but that is really a single product. Sony has developed several consumer gadgets over the years, but none as game-changing as what Apple has done."

### STUMP THE GEEKS

## Vanquishing Outlook anonymity

By ANNE KRISHNAN  
THE NEWS & OBSERVER (RALEIGH, N.C.)

**QUESTION: We use Microsoft Outlook for our e-mail and somehow we have managed to lose the sender's name on our incoming messages. We have the title of the e-mail but not the sender's name. How do we get this back?—P.P.**

**ANSWER:** There are a couple of possible solutions, depending on where the sender's name has gone missing.

If the sender's name has disappeared from the list of e-mail messages in your inbox, you need to add that field again.

Start by right-clicking on the gray bar at the top of your inbox. (That's the bar right above your messages with labels such as subject, received, size, etc.)

Choose "customize current view" and click "fields." You'll see two boxes. On the right are the fields currently

shown in your inbox. On the left are the options you can add.

Highlight "From" and click the "Add" button. You should see it move into the box on the right. You can now drag your fields into the desired order that you want to see them in your inbox. Finish by clicking OK.

If the problem is that the individual messages aren't showing the sender's name, that's even easier.

Just double-click to open any e-mail, go to the "view" menu and select "message header." The name of the sender, as well as some other information, will now be in the individual messages.

*Think you can stump the geeks? Send your high-tech question to [stumpthegeeks@newsobserver.com](mailto:stumpthegeeks@newsobserver.com). Please include your name, address and daytime phone number. Individual replies are not given.)*

## At some point, an old PC can't be helped

By STEVE ALEXANDER  
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

**QUESTION: My Windows XP laptop, a five-year-old Sony Vaio Model PCG-8R4L, has almost ceased to operate. In its day it was a wonderful machine designed for entertainment and games. I'd like to continue to use it for Internet access, photos and e-mail, but it takes 30 minutes to perform a task. What do you suggest?—Steve Loehrer, Eagan, Minn.**

**ANSWER:** I've been hearing from a lot of people with older computers that have slowed down. And, at the risk of sounding like a cheerleader for the PC

industry, I think the best thing you can do for yourself is throw away your aging PC and buy a new one. Anything else is just a Band-Aid.

Now, to be honest, there are some small things you can do to speed up an old PC: Defragment your hard disk to improve the efficiency of data retrieval, as described on eHow.com at <http://www.tinyurl.com/289gyup/>. Run the free Malwarebytes program to clear off any malicious or advertising software that might slow things down. The program can be downloaded at [malwarebytes.org](http://www.malwarebytes.org). Turn off some of the programs that start

up when the PC does, as described in my recent column at <http://tinyurl.com/28zw52o/>.

But these things are unlikely to make a five-year-old PC run much faster. The big problem is that older PCs have a shortage of random access memory, or RAM.

RAM memory chips provide a PC with fast, temporary storage for its computing operations. When the RAM gets filled up, the PC has to use the much slower hard drive to help it run programs, and that bogs things down.

Many older PCs, including

yours, came with 512 megabytes of RAM, while most of today's laptops come with 3 or 4 gigabytes — six to eight times more memory. Software companies have taken advantage of that additional memory in new PCs and made their programs more complex, which means they require more RAM. Your PC just can't keep up.

You could upgrade the RAM in your PC, but it's really a lost cause.

Even if you install your PC's maximum amount of RAM, quadrupling it to 2 gigabytes (at a cost of \$160, if you do the installation yourself), you've still got a PC with less-than average RAM

that will soon be obsolete.

Unfortunately, your old PC is essentially an expensive paperweight.

**Q: I've received several e-mails with empty subject lines and random attachments from people who, like me, use Microsoft Hotmail. These people say that their Hotmail accounts have been hacked and rendered unusable. My Hotmail account is the go-to place for my business relationships, and it would be a disaster if it was rendered useless. What should I do?—Janet Hougen, Minneapolis**

**A:** To protect yourself, never open an e-mail that lacks a subject line, and certainly don't download an attachment from

one. Also, don't trust your business relationships to a single provider of free e-mail. Set up second and third accounts on Gmail and Yahoo Mail and forward your Hotmail e-mails to them as a back-up. Suggest to your friends who think they were hacked that they get new e-mail accounts so you won't have to worry about what's lurking in the e-mails they send you.

*Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at [Tech Q&A](mailto:TechQ&A), 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; e-mail: [steve.j.alexander@gmail.com](mailto:steve.j.alexander@gmail.com). Please include a full name, city and phone number.*



### IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE

*We, the family of the late*

## Antonio Cruz Atalig

*Wish to extend our sincerest appreciation to all our relatives, friends, and those who knew Ton from near and far, for all the genuine compassion you have extended to us during his passing and funeral services. Your presence with us during the 6:00am masses at Kristo Rai Church, nightly rosaries, and most especially during the Mass of Christian Burial was very much appreciated and comforting.*

*Your sympathy, prayers, and kind words of comfort have greatly helped us to endure the grief and sorrow of our loss into the caring of our Creator.*

*From our hearts...*

UN DANGKULO NA SI YU'US  
MA'ASE PARA HAMYO TODOS.

*God Bless and you will always be remembered in our prayers.*

*From the Family*



### FIRST YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

## Roque Abel Sablan Celis "Naki"

We, the family, humbly invite all of our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the passing of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.

Nightly Rosary will be said every evening beginning on Monday, December 20, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. to December 27, 2010 at the residence in Koblerville.

On the last day on Tuesday, December 28, 2010, Rosary will be said at 12 NOON at the residence. Mass of Intention will be offered at 6:00pm at St. Jude Church in Koblerville.

Your presence, thoughts, and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank You and  
Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Wife, Children &  
Family



### Death Announcement

## Apolinar Escota

BETTER KNOWN AS "SCOTT"

BORN TO LIFE ON JULY 23, 1938  
AND WAS CALLED TO HIS ETERNAL REST  
ON DECEMBER 15, 2010

*We the Family, Humbly invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the passing of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.*

*Daily Mass of intention is being offered at 5:00 a.m. at the San Vicente Church.*

*Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date.*

*Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.*

*Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, and Salamat Po.*

**Children and Family**





Life & Style

Time honor caps celebrity-making of Zuckerberg

NEW YORK (AP)—Before 2010, Mark Zuckerberg, the 26-year-old co-founder and CEO of Facebook, was primarily known as a mysterious, sweatshirted figure, a Silicon Valley wunderkind familiar mainly to those in tech circles.

But this year, Zuckerberg has been thrust into pop culture ubiquity, appearing on screens of all shapes and sizes, from “Oprah” to one of the year’s most acclaimed films.

On Wednesday, his public ascent was solidified by Time magazine, which named him its “Person of the Year.” He’s the youngest choice for the honor since the first one chosen, Charles Lindbergh in 1927.

In a posting—where else?—on his Facebook page, Zuckerberg said being named Time’s “Person of the Year” was “a real honor and recognition of how our little team is building something



that hundreds of millions of people want to use to make the world more open and connected. I’m happy to be a part of that.”


It caps a remarkable year for Zuckerberg and Facebook, which has more than 500 million users worldwide and market valuations that go into double-digit billions. In countless re-designs and new features, Facebook has been pushing toward becoming not just a social media hangout, but also the underlying, connecting fabric of the Internet.

Time, which many expected to choose the news-making WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange for “Person of the Year,” cited Zuckerberg “for changing how we all live our lives.”

“I’m trying to make the world a more open place,” Zuckerberg says in the “bio” line of his

See TIME on Next Page

This image released by Time Magazine, Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2010, shows the cover for Time magazine’s 2010 “Person of the Year” issue, featuring Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg.



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**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

SEALED PROPOSALS for **RESTROOM REPAIRS AND WATER PUMP IMPROVEMENTS** at the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP 3-69-0002-62/CPA-SA-002-09**, will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

All bids will be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Saipan International Airport Restroom Renovations and Water Pump Improvements, AIP 3-69-0002-62/CPA-SA-002-09" and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2011**, to the office of the Executive Director at he Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of existing restroom repair such as replacement of doors, plumbing fixtures, floor and wall tiles, ceilings, and all toilet accessories; mechanical fixtures; electrical fixtures; replacement of the existing hydro-pneumatic tank; mechanical rehabilitation and replacement of the existing water pump motor and controls, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **three hundred sixty (360) calendar days**. Liquidated damages of **Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00)** shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are “responsive and responsible.” This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be “responsive or responsible”, their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP-70-25 of the specifications.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the “Bidder’s Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause”, a “Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities”, and the “Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation”, as contained in the bid proposal documents, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

A CD-Rom containing the bid proposal and contract documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$200.00)** for each set of plan documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cashier’s check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 am, FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2011**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders are required to attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA’s best interest.

The proposed contract is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rates established by CNMI Law or Federal Law, whichever is higher. The Contractor shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract.

Each bidder must supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A contractor having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier’s check in the amount not less than **ten percent (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOI  
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: December 14, 2010

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**Yogi Berra**

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:30
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Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon through Tues		4:00	7:00	

**Justin Timberlake, Dan Aykroyd**  
Children's, Family • Rated PG **Synopsis** Hanna-Barbera's beloved picnic basket-stealing bear makes his big-screen debut in this live-action/animated mix children's pic from Ash Brannon, co-director of Surf's Up. The Tooth Fairy writing team of Joshua Sternin and Jeffrey Ventimilia provide the screenplay, which will center around CG Yogi and Boo Boo as they interact with live actors in Jellystone Park. |

**Tron Legacy**

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Mon through Tues		4:05	7:05	

**Garrett Hedlund, Jeff Bridges**  
Science, Fiction • Rated PG **Synopsis** The Master Control Program is booted back up in this revamped Tron continuation that sees the return of original star Jeff Bridges. Original director and co-writer Steven Lisberger is onboard to produce the new film, written by Lost screenwriters Eddie Kitsis and Adam Horowitz, and directed by commercial director Joseph Kosinski. Garrett Hedlund, Olivia Wilde, and Beau Garrett headline the cast in the Walt Disney production. |

**How Do You Know?**

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:50
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Mon through Tues		4:10	7:10	

**Reese Witherspoon, Owen Wilson**  
Comedy • Rated PG 13 **Fighter**  |                  |      |      |      |      | |------------------|------|------|------|------| | Friday           |      | 4:30 | 7:30 | 9:55 | | Saturday         | 1:30 | 4:30 | 7:30 | 9:55 | | Sunday           | 1:30 | 4:30 | 7:30 |      | | Mon through Tues |      | 4:30 | 7:30 |      |  **Mark Wahlberg, Christian Bale** Drama • Rated R |

★ ★ ★

**The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader**

Friday		4:15	7:15	10:00
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	10:00
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Mon through Tues		4:15	7:15	

**Georgie Henley, Ben Barnes**  
Fantasy, Children's, Family • Rated PG **Synopsis** Upon returning to Narnia to join Prince Caspian for a voyage on the majestic royal vessel known as The Dawn Treader, Lucy, Edmund, and their cousin Eustace encounter merfolk, dragons, dwarves, and a wandering band of lost warriors. As the edge of the world draws near, their remarkable adventure at sea sails toward an exciting, yet uncertain, conclusion. |

**Tangled**

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Mon through Tues		4:20	7:20	

**Mandi Moore, Zachary Levi**  
Children's, Family • Rated PG **Unstoppable**  |                  |      |      |      |      | |------------------|------|------|------|------| | Friday           |      | 4:25 | 7:25 | 9:35 | | Saturday         | 1:25 | 4:25 | 7:25 | 9:35 | | Sunday           | 1:25 | 4:25 | 7:25 |      | | Mon through Tues |      | 4:25 | 7:25 |      |  **Denzel Washington, Chris Pine** Action • Rated PG 13 |

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# After 25 years, King is giving up his CNN throne

NEW YORK (AP)—Early last June, CNN celebrated 25 years of “Larry King Live” with a week of shows whose A-list guests included President Barack Obama, LeBron James, Bill Gates and Lady Gaga.

It was hyped to the hilt and suitably eventful, even as King and Lady Gaga regarded each other with the bemusement of a human encountering an alien life form.

Then, at the end of June, King suddenly announced he was retiring from his show—a week-night fixture at 9 p.m. Eastern since June 1, 1985. He told viewers, “It’s time to hang up my nightly suspenders.”

After Thursday’s edition, King will indeed hang it up, suspenders and all. The lineup for this farewell hour should be stellar, though no names have been announced. The mood should be spirited and flowing with emotion.

But until now, it’s been an oddly subdued leave-taking. The promotion machine at a network can make noise over most anything. Or try. CNN isn’t bothering. Having paid King his tribute last June, before he even said he would be stepping down, CNN now is treating him as a lame-duck star, a chapter the network is rushing to move past.

The focus is on Piers Mor-



In this Dec. 16, 1999 file photo, Republican presidential candidate Texas Gov. George W. Bush jokes with CNN’s Larry King after finishing the “Larry King Live” show from the Wildhorse Saloon in Nashville, Tenn.

gan, whom CNN named as the new guy in September. It is busily promoting his January debut. Morgan, a 45-year-old British journalist and TV personality known mainly in the U.S. as a judge on NBC’s “America’s Got Talent,” promises that “Piers Morgan

Tonight” will be “exciting and slightly dangerous.” He is the future—or so CNN hopes. King, who has never been exciting or dangerous (nor tried to be), is clearly seen by CNN as yesterday’s news.

Sure, it would be easy to argue that the 77-year-old King

waited too long to hang up those suspenders.

Once the leader in cable TV news, he now ranks third in his time slot behind Fox News Channel’s Sean Hannity and MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow. His show was seen by 700,000 viewers this year, less than half the nightly audience his peak year, 1998, when “Larry King Live” drew 1.64 million viewers. As recently as 2003, he was averaging 1.54 million.

Wide-eyed and nonconfrontational, King’s regular-guy approach to interviewing feels dated in an era of edgy, pushy or loaded questioning by other hosts.

“I ask short questions, I have no pretense at intellectuality, I don’t pretend to know it all,” King said years ago in explaining his style. “Not, ‘What about Geneva or Cuba?’ I ask, ‘Mr. President, what don’t you like about this job?’ Or ‘What’s the biggest mistake you made?’ That’s fascinating.”

## Aretha Franklin goes home for the holidays

NEW YORK (AP)—Aretha Franklin is home from the hospital—and she’s already making plans for the holidays. In a statement released Wednesday, the Queen of Soul said she’s been home for three days and her family and friends are taking great

care of her. Franklin says she also has a private nurse who checks on her every day.

She also says she’s hoping to see a play about Sam Cooke in her hometown of Detroit soon and to see the production of “Dreamgirls” there before it

closes this month.

Franklin had surgery for an ailment she has not disclosed. She says her doctors deemed the operation “highly successful.”

Franklin was forced to cancel concerts recently because of illness.

## TIME

From Page 27

own Facebook page.

Zuckerberg was perhaps prompted to expand his public persona because others were doing it for him. “The Social Network,” David Fincher and Aaron Sorkin’s acclaimed drama of the contentious creation of Facebook, has supplied a narrative that in some ways is unkind to Zuckerberg and Facebook.

The film depicts Zuckerberg (played by Jesse Eisenberg) as a brilliant, power-hungry, backstabbing hacker motivated by social acceptance and girls. Facebook has called the film (which Sorkin wrote based partly on Ben Mezrich’s book “The Accidental Billionaires” and without Zuckerberg’s cooperation) “fiction.”

But that hasn’t stopped it from becoming a sensation with critics and moviegoers, and arguably the most talked-about film of the year. It has established itself as an Oscar front-runner.

The New York Film Critics Circle, the Los Angeles Film Critics Association and the National Board of Review have all picked “The Social Network” as the best film of the year. On Tuesday, it received six Golden Globe nominations, including best picture, drama, going up against its chief rival, the British monarchy tale “The King’s Speech,” which

led with seven nominations.

Zuckerberg countered the release of the film with a \$100 million donation over five years to the Newark, New Jersey, school system. He appeared on “The Oprah Winfrey Show” to announce the donation. He’s in the company of media titans Carl Icahn, Barry Diller and others who have joined Giving Pledge, an effort led by Microsoft founder Bill Gates and investor Warren Buffett to commit the country’s wealthiest people to step up their charitable donations.

Ahead of the release of “The Social Network,” Sorkin defended the movie’s veracity.

“I have to believe that their PR people are every bit as good as our PR people, and they’ve decided just to say ‘fiction’ as often as they can,” Sorkin said. “They have not identified yet anything in the movie that’s been fictionalized. They’ve nibbled around the edges a little bit that he was drinking a Manhattan when he was really drinking a martini, and that kind of thing. But they’re not going to be able to. The movie’s true.”

Fincher, for his part, professed sympathy for Zuckerberg, and said he understood the pressure of being a young talent with little patience for those less intelligent. He said accuracy was important, but that it was worth remembering the stakes: “You’re talking about people who had their feelings hurt.”

For Zuckerberg, though, the

film turned out to be less something to fear than to scoff at. He even took the whole company to see “The Social Network,” buying out two theaters for the occasion.

“It’s pretty interesting to see what parts they got right and what parts they got wrong,” Zuckerberg said earlier this month in a “60 Minutes” interview. “They got every single T-shirt that they had the Mark Zuckerberg character wearing right. I think I actually own those T-shirts.”

“But I mean, there are hugely basic things that they got wrong, too. I mean, they made it seem like my whole motivation for building Facebook was so I could get girls, right? And they completely left out the fact that my girlfriend, I’ve been dating since before I started Facebook, right?”

The film is sure to remain a hot topic until the Feb. 27 Academy Awards.

“It’s a movie for its time,” said Kevin Spacey, a producer of the film. “And yet I think it’s a movie that’s going to last.”

But Facebook touches the lives of an enormous audience unimaginable to any Hollywood film. Zuckerberg, who grew up in the New York City suburb of Dobbs Ferry, the son of a computer-obsessed dentist, has built Facebook from a dorm room creation at Harvard into the largest social networking site in the world.

As it grew, he steadily turned

## Widowed mother’s demands push daughter to the limit

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

**DEAR ABBY:** My father died this year. My husband and I were his primary caregivers. I was with him until his dying breath. After his passing, Mom asked us to move in so she wouldn’t be alone. She has post-polio syndrome, but her biggest problem is her “princess syndrome.”

She has trouble getting around, but is able to do some things while

I’m at work all day. As soon as I walk in the door, she’s all over me to do simple tasks that she could have done during the day. She complains the house isn’t clean enough, or that this and that aren’t done up to her standards.

Abby, it was easier to take care of all my dad’s needs than it is to take care of hers! Her day consists of getting up at 10 a.m., watching soap operas and eating herself to more than 300 pounds. How do I deal with a mother with a major princess complex?

NOT CINDERELLA

**DEAR NOT CINDERELLA:** Do it by having a frank conversation with your mother and telling her exactly what you have told me, WITHOUT labeling her a princess. You should also insist that she be screened by her doctor for depression.

If her demands are more than you and your husband can deliver, then consider moving into a place of your own. However, if your mother realizes that the alternative is living alone, she may be inclined to compromise.

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband of one year (at the time) was considered by everyone to be the most caring, good husband. But he never wanted to have relations with me. After several months of investigation, I learned he had been seeing prostitutes. He even admitted to me that when he did have sex with me he was thinking of them. Fast-forward: I forgave him; we went to counseling.

Abby, he still never wants to have sex with me! When we do, it’s because I initiate it. My self-confidence is shot. He says he “doesn’t have a sex drive,” so I can either accept him for all the positives—of which there are many—and not have a sex life, or not.

I have considered fulfilling my needs outside the marriage, and giving him the green light to do the same, but he’s against it. I’m at a loss as to what to do. Should I just settle and be happy with what I have?

WANTING MORE IN THE SOUTH

**DEAR WANTING MORE:** You are obviously not happy with “what you have.” And a man who engages the services of a prostitute DOES have a sex drive. You both need to be completely truthful with each other. Once you have reached that point, you will know what to do, and you won’t have to ask me to make the decision for you.

**DEAR ABBY:** My boyfriend and I have reached an impasse. He says that breakfast, brunch or lunch is an acceptable time to spend with my girlfriends, but dinner is “family time” and should be spent at home with him.

He also says that girlfriends who spend a weekend away together are “up to no good.” I see no problem with it. What are your thoughts?

UNSURE IN THE MIDWEST

**DEAR UNSURE:** Your boyfriend appears to be insecure, controlling and have a dim view of women. If you’re smart, you will find someone who is less easily threatened by female bonding and let this one go.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)







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NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff,  
vs.  
SAIKICHY S. ANGEY and LUISA K. ANGEY, Defendants.  
CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0077  
FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 22, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 005 1 272, situated in Koblerville, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 935 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 005 1 05, the original of which was registered with the Commonwealth Recorder as File No. 84-1364, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.  
Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 7, 2011, at the hour of 1:30 pm at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.  
Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.  
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Fax: (670) 234-5749  
Attorney for Petitioners:  
  
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
  
IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP FOR:  
LOUISE RUI JUN XU LIAO,  
A Minor Child,  
by:  
GUOHONG LIAO and WANFEN XU,  
Petitioners.  
FCD GU Civil Action No. 10-0581  
NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL GUARDIANSHIP  
  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of Petitioners to Petition for the Appointment of Legal Guardianship for said minor child, Louise Rui Jun Xu Liao. A Hearing on Petitioner's request shall be heard on 2nd day of January, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. at the CNMI Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Counsel for Petitioners is Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law whose address is P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.  
  
Dated this 2nd day of December 2010.  
  
/s/ BERBADITA A. SABLAN  
Clerk of Court

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# Celtics take thriller over Knicks



**NEW YORK (AP)**—Amare Stoudemire's apparent winning 3-pointer on the buzzer was ruled out by a video replay, giving the Boston Celtics a 118-116 win over the New York Knicks on Wednesday—their 11th straight NBA win.

Paul Pierce made a tiebreaking jumper with 0.4 seconds left to put Boston ahead, but Stoudemire's long shot appeared to have given New York a dramatic win, and an eighth straight victory.

However a video replay showed the ball was clearly still in Stoudemire's hands as time expired.

Pierce scored 32 points for the Celtics, who trailed most of the fourth quarter before running their record to 20-4, best in the Eastern Conference.

Stoudemire had 39 points, extending his franchise-record streak to nine straight 30-point games.

Ray Allen scored 26 points and Kevin Garnett had 20 points and 13 rebounds for the Celtics.

## **Mavericks 103, Trail Blazers 98**

In Dallas, Caron Butler matched his season high with 23 points as Dallas got back on track with a victory over Portland.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 12 of his 21 in the fourth quarter for the Mavericks, whose 12-game winning streak was snapped by Milwaukee on Monday.

Dallas-area native LaMarcus Aldridge scored 20 of his season-high 35 points in the fourth quarter for the Blazers, who lost their third in a row.

Portland rallied from a 17-point third-quarter deficit, tying it at 93-93 with 2:07 left. But Nowitzki hit a 6-footer with 1:49 remaining to give Dallas the lead for good.

## **Spurs 92, Bucks 90**

In San Antonio, Manu Ginobili hit a fallaway jumper as time expired, lifting San Antonio over Milwaukee.

Ginobili scored the last of his 26 points on a 17-footer over the outstretched arm of Luc Mbah a Moute, who missed a shot that would have given the Bucks the lead seconds earlier.

The Spurs improved their NBA-best record to 21-3 and stayed unbeaten against Eastern Conference teams. They also wrapped up a 6-0 homestand.

Ginobili scored the final six points for the Spurs. Tim Duncan finished with 13 points and a season-high seven blocks.

Chris Douglas-Roberts had 21 points for the Bucks.

## **Lakers 109, Pacers 94**

In Indianapolis, Kobe Bryant scored 25 of his 31 points in the second half to help Los Angeles beat Indiana.



Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce (34) shoots over New York Knicks' Amare Stoudemire (1) to win the game during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2010, in New York.

Pau Gasol scored 28 points for the Lakers, who never trailed.

The Lakers shot 51 percent against the Pacers, who entered with the NBA's No. 2 field-goal percentage defense. Los Angeles outrebounded Indiana 51-29 to win for the sixth time in seven games.

Darren Collison scored 17 points for the Pacers, who have lost three straight.

## **Thunder 117, Rockets 105**

In Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 32 points as Oklahoma City beat Houston for its fourth straight win.

Durant was on the bench with four fouls late in the third quarter when the Thunder scored eight straight points to take control of the game. James Harden tacked on a 3-pointer to open the fourth and push Oklahoma City's lead to 90-76, and the Rockets were never closer than a dozen points after that.

Thabo Sefolosha added a season-high 15 points and nine rebounds for the Thunder.

Kevin Martin scored 22 points for Houston.

## **Heat 101, Cavaliers 95**

In Miami, the hosts made it 10 straight wins by holding off Cleveland.

Dwyane Wade scored 17 of his 28 points in the fourth quarter, while LeBron James added 21 points and a season-high 13 rebounds against his old team.

The 10-game winning streak matched the fourth-longest in Heat history.

Daniel Gibson scored 26 points for Cleveland, which lost its ninth straight.

Emotions were nowhere near as high as they were when

James appeared in Cleveland for the first time as an opponent on Dec. 2, though there was some tension. At least one skirmish broke out in the stands during the fourth quarter as Miami pulled away.

## **Bulls 110, Raptors 93**

In Toronto, Carlos Boozer had a season-high 34 points and 12 rebounds, and Chicago won its seventh straight game by beating Toronto.

Luol Deng added 19 points for the Bulls, who never trailed and led by as many as 29.

The seven straight wins is Chicago's longest streak with 2006-07.

Leandro Barbosa scored 21 points for Toronto, which lost for the sixth time in seven games.

## **Grizzlies 113, Bobcats 80**

In Memphis, the hosts jumped to an early lead and routed Charlotte.

O.J. Mayo scored 24 points and Rudy Gay had 23 to help the Grizzlies run their season-best winning streak to four games.

Stephen Jackson led the Bobcats with 16 points.

The Grizzlies ended a four-game losing streak against Charlotte, which was without injured starting forward Gerald Wallace.

## **Hornets 94, Kings 91**

In New Orleans, the home team completed a franchise-record 23-point comeback to beat Sacramento.

Chris Paul had 22 points and 11 assists and Marcus Thornton scored a season-high 19 points, including 13 during a crucial 6-minute span in the third quar-

ter when the Hornets climbed back into the game.

Tyreke Evans scored 22 points and Beno Udrih 20 for the Kings, who led 66-43 with 8:48 to go in the third quarter. Sacramento has lost 11 of 12.

## **Suns 128, Timberwolves 122**

In Phoenix, Channing Frye hit seven of Phoenix's 15 3-pointers as the hosts outlasted Minnesota.

Steve Nash had 19 assists to help the Suns end a three-game losing streak. Phoenix made seven of 11 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and Nash hit six late free throws to seal it.

Kevin Love had 23 points and 16 rebounds for Minnesota despite a hard fall in the first quarter. The Timberwolves suffered a ninth consecutive road loss.

## **76ers 105, Clippers 91**

In Philadelphia, Jrue Holiday scored 24 points to help surging Philadelphia down a road-weary Los Angeles.

Andre Iguodala had eight of his 20 points in the 76ers dominant third quarter. Philadelphia has won three straight.

Blake Griffin had 20 points and 18 rebounds, matching his career high, to pace the Clippers, who have dropped all 11 of their road games this season. Counting last season, Los Angeles has lost 15 straight on the road.

## Durant named USA Basketball's male athlete of year



**COLO-RADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)**—

Kevin Durant has been chosen USA Basketball male athlete of the year after leading the U.S. to its first world championship in 16 years.

Durant was the tournament MVP after averaging 22.8 points, a U.S. record in the event, while shooting nearly 56 percent from the field and 45 percent from the 3-point line.

With the stars from the 2008 Olympic team staying home, Durant carried the young American team and is a lock to play in the 2012 Olympics no matter who decides to return.

The NBA's leading scorer with Oklahoma City, Durant was at his best in the medal rounds. He scored 33 points in the quarterfinals against Russia, 38 in the semifinals against Lithuania, and had 20 of his 28 in the first half of the gold-medal game against Turkey.

## Stern says decertifying union a 'nuclear option'

**MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)**—NBA Commissioner David Stern says it would be risky for NBA players to decertify their union.

Speaking with reporters Wednesday before the Charlotte Bobcats-Memphis Grizzlies game, Stern said if the union decertifies it wouldn't just mean the end of the NBA players association, it would nullify the labor contract as well.

That would allow players to challenge antitrust laws, the commissioner said, an opportunity they don't have with the collective bargaining agreement in place. But, he said, decertification is risky because there are \$4 billion in guaranteed player contracts in effect for next season.

"It's a nuclear option," Stern said, "but I'm not sure whether it isn't the nuclear option that falls on the party that launches it."

Billy Hunter, the executive

director of the NBA players association, told *The New York Times* this week that the likelihood of decertifying the union was "pretty far off."

Hunter told the *Times* that decertification was just an option that was available in case of a lockout, but there was "nothing immediate."

*The Sports Business Journal* reported Monday that players from at least two teams had voted unanimously to authorize decertification, which could allow the players to sue the NBA if it attempted to impose a lockout when the collective bargaining agreement expires on June 30.

Hunter is meeting with teams to discuss the labor situation.

Stern said the goal of labor talks with the players association on a new CBA is to get more parity among teams through revenue-sharing and

other stipulations.

In his comments Wednesday, Stern focused on the balance between competitiveness and economics as part of the negotiations. He noted that a hard salary cap, similar to what the National Football League has, might be a good model because the NFL is considered a league with competitive balance.

He said there will "be a more robust revenue-sharing arrangement" under the new collective bargaining agreement.

"It's about allowing teams to access the pool of available talent, and not have teams spend an inordinate sum of money and being able to simply pay a tax to have the better team," the commissioner said. "The whole concept of hardening of a cap is designed to make players available on a broader basis. Those are the things that are being talked about."



# Hall of Famer Bob Feller dies at 92



CLEVELAND (AP)—Teen-

age pitching sensation, World War II hero, outspoken Hall of Famer and local sports treasure. Bob Feller was all of them.

One of a kind, he was an American original.

Blessed with a right arm that earned the Iowa farmboy the nickname "Rapid Robert" and made him one of the greatest pitchers in baseball history, Feller, who left baseball in the prime of his career to fight for his country, died Wednesday night. He was 92.

Feller, who won 266 games in 18 seasons—all with the Indians—died at 9:15 p.m. on Wednesday night of acute leukemia at a hospice, said Bob DiBiasio, the Indians vice president of public relations.

Remarkably fit until late in life, Feller had suffered serious health setbacks in recent months. He was diagnosed with leukemia in August, and while undergoing chemotherapy, he fainted and his heart briefly stopped. Eventually, he had a pacemaker implanted.

In November, he was hospitalized with pneumonia and recently released into hospice care.

Even as his health deteriorated, Feller continued doing what he loved most—attending Indians games deep into last season.

"Nobody lives forever and I've had a blessed life," Feller said in September. "I'd like to stay on this side of the grass for as long as I can, though. I'd really like to see the Indians win a World Series."

Feller, in fact, was part of the rotation the last time the Indians won it all—in 1948.

Fiercely proud and patriotic, Feller's life was much like one of his overpowering fastballs. He seemed unstoppable, whether on the mound or in conversation. Feller, who broke into the majors at the tender age of 17, could always bring the heat.

"Bob Feller is gone. We cannot be surprised," Indians owner Larry Dolan said in a statement. "Yet, it seems improbable. Bob has been such an integral part of our fabric, so much more than an ex-ballplayer, so much more than any Cleveland Indians player. He is Cleveland, Ohio."

"To say he will be missed is such an understatement. More to the point, he will not be missed because he will always be with us," he said.

Feller was part of a vaunted Indians' rotation in the 1940s and '50s with fellow Hall of Famers Bob Lemon and Early Wynn. He finished with 2,581 career strikeouts, led the American League in strikeouts seven times, pitched three no-hitters—including the only one on opening day—and recorded a jaw-dropping 12 one-hitters.



In this Feb. 28, 1941, file photo, Cleveland Indians star pitcher Bob Feller works on his form during spring training baseball in Fort Myers, Fla.

Feller's win total remains a Cleveland team record, one that seems almost untouchable in today's free-agent era. His numbers would no doubt have been even greater had his career not been interrupted by World War II.

The first pitcher to win 20 games before he was 21, Feller was enshrined in Cooperstown in 1962, his first year of eligibility.

The Indians retired his No. 19 jersey in 1957 and immortalized the greatest player in franchise history with a statue when they opened their downtown stadium in 1994. The sculpture is vintage Feller, captured forever in the middle of his patented windmill windup, rearing back to fire another pitch.

"When you think Cleveland Indians, you think Bob Feller and vice versa," Indians manager Manny Acta said. "He was a genuine patriot and a big-time Hall of Famer. Boy, he loved the Indians and we all loved him back."

Baseball was only a part of

Feller's remarkable story.

Stirred by Japan's bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, Feller enlisted in the Navy the following day—the first major league player to do so. He served as a gun captain on the USS *Alabama*, earning several battle commendations and medals.

"More impressive than his vast accomplishments on the field was being part of 'The Greatest Generation,'" Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig said. "Bob served our country for nearly four years during the prime of his career. Bob was a great pitcher, but he was first and foremost a great American."

Never afraid to offer a strong opinion on any subject, Feller remained physically active in his later years. At the end of every winter, he attended the Indians' fantasy camp in either Florida or Arizona. One of the highlights of the weeklong event was always Feller, in uniform, taking the mound and striking out campers, some of

whom were 50 years younger.

Another rite of spring for Cleveland fans was seeing Feller at the Indians' training camp. Before home exhibition games in Winter Haven, Fla., or more recently in Goodyear, Ariz., Feller would throw out the ceremonial first pitch. Introduced to a rousing ovation every time, Feller delivered the throw with the same high leg kick he used while blazing fastballs past overmatched hitters.

"We have all lost a friend and the nation has lost an icon," former Indians manager Mike Hargrove said. "Bob was always there with a word of advice or a story. The thing is that they were always relevant and helpful. I will never forget before the first game of the '97 World Series, Bob came up to me and patted me on the back and told me how proud he was of me and the team, then gave me a buck-eye and said it was for luck."

"I don't think that Bob ever believed in luck, just hard work and an honest effort. I will miss Bob very much. He was my

friend," he said.

An eight-time All-Star, Feller compiled statistics from 1936 through 1956 that guaranteed his Hall of Fame enshrinement. He led the AL in victories six times and is still the Indians' career leader in shutouts (46), innings pitched (3,827), walks (1,764), complete games (279), wins and strikeouts.

Despite losing his two starts, Feller won a World Series title with the Indians in 1948.

When he returned from military duty in 1946, Feller arguably had his finest season, going 26-15 with a 2.18 ERA and pitching 36 complete games and 10 shutouts. For comparison's sake, the Indians' entire pitching staff had 10 complete games and four shutouts last season.

Born Nov. 3, 1918, near Van Meter, Iowa, Robert Andrew William Feller was 16 when he caught the eye of Indians scout Cy Slapnicka.

Feller made his first major league start on Aug. 23, 1936, two months shy of turning 18. He never pitched in the minors, and when the Indians decided to use him in a relief role on July 19, 1936, he was the youngest player ever to pitch in a major league game. Many wondered if the kid—who would later credit his arm strength to milking cows, picking corn, and baling hay—was in over his head.

Hardly.

Using a fastball later dubbed "the Van Meter heater," Feller struck out 15—two shy of the major league record in his first game, beating the St. Louis Browns 4-1—a star was born. Later that season, Feller established the AL record by striking out 17 Philadelphia Athletics.

In 1938, Feller set the major league record by striking out 18 against the Detroit Tigers. No pitcher in the AL fanned more in a nine-inning game until Nolan Ryan in 1974. By the time Feller joined the military at 23, he had won 109 games and was well on the way to baseball fame.

In his day, nobody threw harder than Feller, who sometimes had trouble with his control. Because speed devices weren't as advanced as they are today, it's impossible to gauge precisely how fast Feller threw in his prime. There is famous black-and-white film footage of Feller's fastball being clocked as it races against a motorcycle said to be traveling at 100 mph.

Feller once said he was clocked at 104 mph.

Even in his later years, Feller could recall pitch-for-pitch duels with great hitters like Ted Williams and Joe DiMaggio. He said his biggest thrill in the game was when he returned from the military to pitch a no-hitter against New York at Yankee Stadium.

"I had been away four years and people were saying I was

washed up," Feller said. "They had a right to say it, too, since few come back after being away so long. But this game proved to me that I was still able to pitch."

He always credited his father, Bill, with encouraging his baseball ambitions.

"My father kept me busy from dawn to dusk when I was a kid," Feller said. "When I wasn't pitching hay, hauling corn or running a tractor, I was heaving a baseball into his mitt behind the barn."

Feller said the greatest hitter he ever faced, without question, was Williams, although Williams had only a .270 average against him.

"I was a little luckier against him than the others," Feller said. "But he beat me in more games than I care to remember. Joe DiMaggio was the only right-hander who hit me consistently. The fellow who hit me best, though, was Tommy Henrich, the Yankees' old reliable."

After retiring from baseball, Feller worked in the insurance business, but he never got completely away from the game. In 1981, he returned to work for the Indians as a spring training pitching coach and in the team's public relations office.

As recently as last season, Feller was a fixture in the press box at Progressive Field. Sitting in the media dining area before games or in the same seat during them, he would offer his thoughts on any current event and, of course, his assessment on the Indians.

When Washington's Stephen Strasburg made his second start in Cleveland, Feller refused to get caught up in the hype.

"Check back with me when he's won 100 games," he said.

Cleveland's chapter of the Baseball Writers Association of America recently asked the Indians to turn Feller's press box seat into a shrine area.

Feller didn't care for crowds and didn't particularly enjoy interacting with fans, but he often attended memorabilia shows to sign autographs for a nominal fee. Sometimes gruff, Feller would sign his autograph and listen as fans asked him questions and posed for pictures with an iconic man who meant so much to them.

Feller was critical of contemporary ballplayers. He viewed them as spoiled and felt they didn't work as hard at their craft as he and his peers. Feller never softened on his stance that Pete Rose, baseball's hits leader, should remain banned for betting on baseball.

Feller, who lived in Gates Mills, Ohio, is survived by his wife, Anne, and three sons, Steve, Martin and Bruce.

The Indians said details on a public memorial service will be announced in the near future.



# Goodell hopes labor can be settled by Super Bowl

**FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)**—NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said a new labor agreement could be in place by the Super Bowl “if we all commit to it and work hard at it.”

Goodell made it clear Wednesday that NFL negotiators are willing to do so.

“There’s no higher priority than getting a collective bargaining agreement,” he said following a day of meetings with NFL team owners. “So we will work night and day to get that done.”

Asked whether he expects the same from the NFL Players’ Association, Goodell said, “I hope so.”

NFLPA spokesman Carl Francis said, “We have no comment at this time.”

The major sticking point is the owners demanding to restructure the players’ share of designated revenues. Another point of contention is the owners wanting to turn two pre-season games into regular-season games; the union fears more injuries and has countered with a request for additional roster spots and cutting offseason workouts by about one-third from the current 14 weeks.

Goodell said the league has no deadline, but noted the collective bargaining agreement expires March 4.

“This becomes harder after the labor agreement expires,” he said. “We want to get this done as soon as possible.”

At the league’s fall meetings in October, Patriots owner Robert Kraft said he considered it realistic to have a new CBA by the end of the regular season, which is Jan. 2.

Goodell said he doesn’t think it is practical to expect negotiations to get serious enough fast enough for that to happen. However, he said, “I think the end of the postseason is realistic.”

Kraft left the meetings saying he didn’t want to discuss the negotiations.

“Just a lot of discussion. Nothing’s changed. We’re still hopeful of getting an agreement at some point, but I don’t have any substantive comment about where we are,” New York Giants co-owner John Mara said. “I’m always optimistic until proven otherwise.”

Colts owner Jim Irsay said these negotiations felt like all the others he’s been involved with over the last few decades.

“There’s nothing that’s unusual or anything earth-shattering right now,” he said. “The process continues is the best way to put it.”

Last week, the league agreed to give the union more time to file a collusion claim against the NFL. It was announced in a joint statement.

“I have said this repeatedly: I believe this will be resolved at the collective bargaining table,” Goodell said. “Obviously we’re seeing a lot of rhetoric and different tactics, including litigation strategies that I think are all distractions and attempts to get leverage. I understand that. But at the end of the day, this will get solved at the negotiating table. That’s where we should be.”

Goodell said it’s a good sign that the league and the NFLPA are talking, but he called that only a start.

“It takes productive dialogue, which means we’ve got to get to that place where we’re making significant progress in getting an agreement,” he said. “It’s not just about meetings and dialogues. It’s about getting real, significant progress on the key issues.”

The owners also watched a video on helmet hits and discussed reseeding for the playoffs.

Owners have discussed before whether to change the current system of rewarding division winners with a home playoff game, or if playoff seeds should be based strictly on record. It’s an issue again because the winner of the NFC West could be 8-8 or 7-9, while a team with 10 or 11 wins could have to go on the road.

“I see the merits of what they’re talking about,” Goodell

said. “But I also believe that our playoff system has worked quite well. ... We were focused a lot on (whether) the priority should be win your division, get a home game. That’s what clubs really felt should be the priority.”

The two clubs most likely hurt by the existing rules are the Giants and Eagles. They are tied

for the NFC East lead at 9-4.

Mara said he understands the logic behind the way things are done, “though I don’t necessarily agree with it.”

“For me, a team that wins their division with a .500 record or worse shouldn’t necessarily get a home game over a team that wins 10 or 11 games,” Mara

said. “I can’t tell you I have a lot of hope about that passing. It’s been discussed in the past and never gone anywhere.”

Eagles owner Jeffrey Lurie said he didn’t have a stance.

“It’s a tough question,” he said. “You keep having to go back and forth with that every year.”

## NFL BRIEFS

### NFL closer to a ruling on Favre investigation

**FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)**—NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell is close to announcing whether the league will punish Brett Favre for sending inappropriate photos and phone messages to a former New York Jets game hostess. Goodell said Wednesday he received the league’s report about the case “last week and I expect that some time in the near future I will make a decision.” Asked if that would come by the end of the season, he said, “I expect that, yes.” The NFL is examining whether Favre sent Jenn Sterger messages and photos in 2008, while he was playing for the Jets and she also worked for the team. Now with Minnesota, Favre, whose record consecutive starts streak ended at 297 on Monday night because of a shoulder injury, could face disciplinary action under the league’s personal conduct policy. Sterger’s manager, Phil Reese, has said his client would like the league to “implement a program” to prevent unwanted advances—similar to those she’s alleging Favre made. Reese said Sterger wants the league to discipline Favre before his career ends. “It’s not a money story,” Reese said, adding his client’s goal is some acknowledgment that Favre was in the wrong. Favre has said this season will be his last.

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### UMinn pushes to be ready to host Vikes-Bears

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)**—Backed by dump trucks and loaders, dozens of workers hoisting shovels and blowers attacked the snowdrifts covering the University of Minnesota’s stadium Wednesday in a determined push to have it ready to replace the snow-damaged Metrodome for Monday night’s game between the Vikings and

Bears. As the work began in earnest, NFL officials toured TCF Bank Stadium to make sure it was safe for fans and meets other league requirements. The two biggest concerns, according to assistant university athletic director Scott Ellison, were whether all the snow can be removed in time and whether the frozen field could be softened to a level that won’t hurt the players. “I’m completely confident we can have a game here Monday night,” Ellison said after crews had already removed 26 truckloads of snow and totally cleared 17 of the 52 seating sections. A fourth panel in the Metrodome’s inflatable roof tore open at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, dumping snow and ice on the field, Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission spokesman Pat Milan said. No one was hurt, and all the workers were pulled from the stadium floor. Crews will inspect the damage Thursday.

# Christmas

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# Island Apparel, Kitty Kat win in masters caging

By WALTER SUTHERLAND  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Island Apparel outlasted the Ol'Aces, 78-72, in the first 40A overtime game of the season Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Kitty Kat Ferrera Builders, meanwhile, routed Brotherhood, 92-54 in the 45A game played earlier that night.

In the 40A pairing, Teng Particio paced Ol'Aces with six markers to help his team manage a slim, 18-17, lead in the opening period.

Joe Pangilinan led Island Apparel with six points in the first quarter.

Island Apparel then contained Ol'Aces to 16 points in the second quarter and pushed ahead to a 40-34 lead at the half.

Mike Sablan led the charge with five points in the period as seven players contributed to Island Apparel's scoring output.

After the break, Island Apparel extended its lead to 10 points, 60-50, as Yosh Gabaldon and Oscar Masga tallied four points apiece in the third quarter.

Ol'Aces' defense buckled down in the last 10 minutes of regulation and held Island Apparel to just eight points at crunch time, which allowed them to tie the game in the final moments.

Ol'Aces' Elias Rangamar fired three long balls to help mount the rally and force overtime.

After an exciting fourth-quarter comeback, Ol'Aces failed to capitalize on the momentum swing and managed only a pair of buckets from Junar Fernandez in the extra period.

Gabaldon delivered five markers that helped lead Island Apparel to victory. He finished with a team high 18 points, while Rangamar led Ol'Aces with 17.

In the 45A matchup, Kitty Kat took the lead in the first quarter and broke open the game with a dominating performance in the second period.

Kitty Kat's Teddy Bugay caught fire early, scoring 10 points in the opening period that helped establish a 24-16 lead.

Ambet Omampo led Brotherhood with six points during what would be the only competitive 10 minutes of action.

Kitty Kat's defense stuffed Brotherhood in the second quarter, allowing just a pair of free throws by Omampo, while Boy Garcia led Kitty Kat with seven points.

After halftime, Kitty Kat

boasted a 48-28 margin that took the fight out of Brotherhood. Omampo, Noel Conti, Edeng Chavez, and Benji Cruz all managed a pair of buckets in the third quarter, but Kitty Kat still collectively negated the effort.

The scoreboard read 74-38 at the start of an uneventful last quarter where both teams traded baskets in the period.

Bugay finished with a game-high 23 points for Kitty Kat, while Omampo led Brotherhood with 15 in the loss.

After this Saturday's matchups between 45A's Taga Security and Joe Pangelinan's team and 40A's Jhem's Restaurant and the Ol'Aces at the Ada Gym, the MBFNMI will start its Christmas break until Thursday, Jan. 6.

The MBFNMI Board of Directors, meanwhile, is calling

for a mandatory meeting for all 40A and 45A head coaches for 5:30pm on Dec. 21 at the Ada Gym conference room.

Topics to be discussed at the meeting include team roster certification, the 2010 Memorial Cup playoff format and awards categories, overview of the 2011 MBFNMI calendar of events, overview of the MBFNMI budget and financial report, membership fees and payment statuses, start up for the 35A division, all-star selections for all three divisions and details about a 50A division.

## First Game

**Kitty Kat Ferrera Builders 92** – Bugay 21, Villegas 13,

Lopez 12, Garcia 9, Cristobal 8, Tipples 8, Abedes 7, Delos Santos 6.

**Brotherhood 54** – Omampo 15, Conti 14, Chavez 10, Cruz 9, Dalusong 4.

**Scoring by quarters:** 24-16, 48-18, 74-38, 92-54.

## Second Game

**Island Apparel 78** – Gabaldon 18, O. Masga 16, Pangelinan 9, G. Masga 8, Zapata 8, Norman 6, Olivos 6, M. Sablan 5, Irinaka 4.

**Ol'Aces 72** – Rangamar 17, Fernandez 12, Atalig 11, Mesia 10, Alesandro 8, Patricio 8, Rogolifoi 4.

**Scoring by quarters:** 17-18, 40-34, 60-50, 68-68, 78-72, OT.

## UBA

From Page 36

Court, which hosted the inaugural edition of the men's caging.

"There are several reasons for the change of location. One is to have a better-controlled environment. Bad weather causes delay of games. Second is for the safety of players, officials, and as well as the fans. Last and perhaps the biggest reason is the standard of the league. Given that the public has branded UBA Men's League as the premier basketball league on the island, we see that we should live up to expectations and bring the event indoor," Lee said.

Lee added that the league wants to follow the up-to-date FIBA rules and regulation as far as game venue and officiating are concerned.

"Ada Gym is currently the only FIBA-sanction gym based on the new lining of the court as well as the standard size of the court. In comparison, outdoor courts are much smaller than the indoor courts we have on

island, such as NMC Gym, Ada Gym, and MHS Gym. Finally, officiating wise, to truly follow the FIBA rules and regulations, UBA is now working together with our CNMI basketball federation, BANMI, to ensure that our basketball program is heading to the right direction and that the official calls during the games are correct and legitimate based on the FIBA rule book," Lee said.

"Having said that, this should be a fun and exciting league to watch given the caliber of each team and the standards that have been set for the league," the UBA head added.

Meanwhile representatives of participating teams are asked to attend a meeting on Dec. 23 at 6pm at the NMC Gym. Teams are also required to turn in 50 percent of the \$500 entrance fee at the meeting. Squads failing to meet the deadline for the payment of registration fees will not be allowed to compete in the league.

For more information, contact UBA at 989-UBA1(8221) or email at unifiedbasketballassociation@gmail.com.

# MRA barbecue this Sunday in Cowtown



The Marianas Racing Association will be having a potluck-style barbecue this weekend in an effort to build

support and recruit new members.

The barbecue will be held at Cowtown Raceway this Sunday, Dec. 19, from 12pm to 4pm.

Last Sept. 5, MRA resurrected

a new five-member board of directors. The newly formed board consists of elected president James Eller, vice president Daniel Westphal, secretary and treasurer Jay Doronila, and directors Dave

Celis and Adam Hardwicke.

For more information about MRA, contact president James Eller at 483-6002 or email [eller900@yahoo.com](mailto:eller900@yahoo.com). (Walter Sutherland)

## MACARANAS

From Page 36

ranas said.

Macaranas and Moon had a two-stroke lead over Sean Maruyama and Connor Brown of Los Angeles after nine holes to top the 19-player field.

The son of former Saipan resident Richard Macaranas started the nine-hole tournament with a par on hole No. 1, missing an 18-foot birdie. Then in the second hole, the younger Macaranas drilled a 9-foot birdie putt.

Macaranas went for another putt, this time 15 feet from the cup, but missed it to settle for a par. He had his third par on hole No. 4 when he muffed a 30-foot birdie.

"My 9-foot birdie putt was exactly what I wanted but just lipped out, so I tapped in for

par on No. 5. On No. 6, I had another 9-foot birdie putt, again exactly putted the way I wanted, gave luck a chance, and it went straight in the hole for a birdie," Macaranas said.

In the last three holes, the Commonwealth's junior golfer saved par to force a tie for the lead.

"I did not like my approach shot on No. 7. I left myself with a 30-foot putt for a birdie. I missed it, but was happy with a par save in this tough hole," Macaranas said.

"I started to think conservatively, and put my ball 33 feet away for a birdie on No. 8, and left it six feet short because the green looked faster than what I thought. Thinking back about it, I was not going to miss anything inside six feet and made the putt all the way for a par save," he added.

Then on the par-5, 452-yard No. 9, Macaranas drove the ball 262 yards. In his second shot, he used his 4 hybrid for the 190-yard approach shot that landed on the green perfectly, but kept rolling just off the green in the back.

"I was not happy about my eagle chip, I left myself with another 9-foot birdie, and I could not believe that putt lipped out again. I tapped in for a par," the young golfer said.

The 2010 Bridgestone Fall Series Championship was one of the 21 tournaments under the PGA of Southern California U11 Fall Series. The list includes Heartwell Fall Challenge, Casta Del Sol Fall Challenge, La Quinta Dunes Fall Challenge, El Prado Fall Challenge, LA County/Public Links Junior Championship, Westlake Village Fall Challenge, Altade-

na Fall Challenge, Dominguez Hills Fall Challenge, Westchester Fall Challenge, Casta Del Sol Fall Challenge, General Old Fall Challenge, Rancho Duarte Fall Challenge, Scholl Canyon Fall Challenge, Birch Hills Fall Challenge, David L. Baker Fall Challenge, Rancho Duarte Fall Challenge, Scholl Canyon Fall Challenge, Heartwell Fall Challenge, David L. Baker Fall Challenge, and Casta Del Sol Fall Challenge.

Macaranas missed the first four tournaments of the fall series that ran from September until early December.

Before the 2010 Bridgestone Fall Series Championship, Macaranas also prevailed in the Heartwell Fall Challenge in his home course at Heartwell in Long Beach, beating Leland Wilcox in the sudden-death playoff on the 20th hole.

## 3 SCHOOLS

From Page 36

WSR's Spencer Dickinson and Wilfredo Francisco netted the game-winning shots. The NMIFA U12 boys competition was comprised of the same group of schools as the U12 girls.

On the other field, the Hopwood All-Stars battled it out against its sister team Strikers

in another chess match that was decided on penalty shots to the All-Stars, 2-1.

At the beginning of the game, the Strikers took an early lead thanks to the league's top scorer Kayleen Salle, but the All-Stars' Naney Oschr answered the call and knotted up the game at, 1-1, before the half.

The U14 girls championship was played with two 25-minute halves.

After the break both teams held each other at bay in the second half and the game went straight to penalty shots as a result of a lack of sunlight. Notably, the All-Stars did a good job in the second half containing Salle who averaged two goals a game coming into the match.

In the end, the All-Stars' Anna Hemley fired the lone point out of five tries from each team for the championship victory.

After the game, the All Stars were awarded the NMIFA U14 girls soccer junior high school trophy.

Prior to the U14 girls finals, a divisional consolation match between Hopwood's Kickers and Mixed Plate teams also took place. This game also went scoreless after a pair of 25-minute halves and two five-minute overtime periods. The Kickers won third place by penalty shots, 3-2.

## KINGZ

From Page 36

Joining Limes and Teregeyo on the team are Billy Utalap, Melvin Yamit, Damien Itibus, J.R. Pelisamen, and Kimo William.

Yo Face is composed of

Francisco Sinounov, Jeffrey Sachuo, Jefferson Keju, Jake Kapwich, Clarence Amandus, and Nakayama.

Kingz will go for a finals sweep today when they face Yo Face in Game 3. Kingz won Game 1 also via three-set sweep, 42-39.

Game 1 was a sorry loss for Yo Face, as it had momentum of the series opener after stunning Kingz in the first set, 16-10. Kingz took the second set, 15-14, and despite falling behind by five, 25-30, after two sets, it still gained the juiced-out win af-

ter a huge 17-9 triumph in the third set.

Despite losing Game 1, Yo Face topped Kingz in aces, 4-2, and in kees, 6-4. Kingz ruled the goals department, 3-0. In Game 2, it was all Kings; 2-0 in aces; 1-0 in xunk; 6-1 in kees, and 2-1 in goals.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

##### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	20	4	.833	—
New York	16	10	.615	5
Philadelphia	10	15	.400	10 1/2
Toronto	9	17	.346	12
New Jersey	6	19	.240	14 1/2

##### Southeast Division

Miami	19	8	.704	—
Orlando	16	9	.640	2
Atlanta	16	10	.615	2 1/2
Charlotte	9	16	.360	9
Washington	6	17	.261	11

##### Central Division

Chicago	16	8	.667	—
Indiana	11	13	.458	5
Milwaukee	10	14	.417	6
Detroit	8	18	.308	9
Cleveland	7	18	.280	9 1/2

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

##### Southwest Division

San Antonio	21	3	.875	—
Dallas	20	5	.800	1 1/2
New Orleans	15	10	.600	6 1/2
Memphis	12	14	.462	10

Houston	10	15	.400	11 1/2
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##### Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	18	8	.692	—
Utah	18	8	.692	—
Denver	15	9	.625	2
Portland	12	14	.462	6
Minnesota	6	20	.231	12

##### Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	19	7	.731	—
Phoenix	12	12	.500	6
Golden State	9	16	.360	9 1/2
Sacramento	5	18	.217	12 1/2
L.A. Clippers	5	21	.192	14

##### Yesterday's Games

L.A. Lakers 109, Indiana 94  
Boston 118, New York 116  
Philadelphia 105, L.A. Clippers 91  
Chicago 110, Toronto 93  
Miami 101, Cleveland 95  
Memphis 113, Charlotte 80  
New Orleans 94, Sacramento 91  
Oklahoma City 117, Houston 105  
San Antonio 92, Milwaukee 90  
Phoenix 128, Minnesota 122  
Dallas 103, Portland 98

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



# Christmas Island Relay set tomorrow



Members of Team Butterfly near the finish line of last year's Christmas Island Relay at the Last Command Post in Marpi.

ROSELYN B. MONROY

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Northern Marianas Athletics will hold the 29th Annual Christmas Island Relay tomorrow beginning at 6am at the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

Registration starts that morning at 5am and costs only \$5 per runner or \$25 per team. Solo runners are also welcome to participate for \$10.

The 13.7-mile course starts at PIC and continues along the western coast of Saipan, northward to the Last Command Post in Marpi.

Participants will compete in mixed teams of five who individually alternate through 1-mile stages of the course. Each team must consist of at least one 16-year-old runner or younger, one female runner or one runner that is 40 years or older.

There is also a U18 division. Teams that want to participate in this division must be composed of five runners who are age 18 or younger (before the date of the event) and must include at least one female member.

Solo runners are also encouraged to tackle the same course and try to break the solo record-time and hold bragging rights for the year.

Last year Team Flow mem-

bers Paul Anthony, Nicole LeBlanc, Florence Antonio, Ryan Camacho, and Ronald Villafria ruled the 10-team field with a time of 1:34:50.

Notably, Flow edged out the second place team by just seven seconds. In the solo division, Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel topped a field of four runners with a time of 1:44:06.

Prizes will be awarded to the Top 3 team finishers and a traditional prize will be presented to the top solo finisher. In addition, other prizes will be raffled off as well.

"Showcased as the last event of every busy year, NMA's Island Relay has always attracted over a hundred of running enthusiasts...

we put it on to show the spirit of good tidings and goodwill to both the runners and organizers. The Island Relay is a way to thank everyone who participated in our other NMA events," said NMA marketing and sponsorships director Gabriel White.

Every year the NMA hosts a number of activities and events in its continued efforts to promote national physical fitness, health and wellness, the fight against obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and other medical conditions that plague the people of the CNMI.

To register or for more information, contact NMA's Elias Rangamar at [elirang@yahoo.com](mailto:elirang@yahoo.com).

## December crowns at stake in SBA roll-offs



Saipan Bowling Association will be holding its December roll-off this weekend at the Capital Bowling Center.

First up will be the SBA-Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes Tournament on Sunday with the December crown at stake.

The Sunday tournament will be the last monthly tournament for the island's youth keggers before SBA holds its finale roll-off on Jan. 9 at the Saipan Bowling Center.

M.J. Aldan is highly favored in the finale after his strings of victories in the monthly tournaments. Aldan ruled the youth tournament from May to August and from October to November.

Marion McKenzie won three times (January, March, and October), while Zack Cruz and Leeanne Yarobwemal took the February and April awards, respectively.

The SBA-King and Queen of the Lanes December roll-offs will also take place this Sunday. However, those who will miss the weekend roll-offs can still compete on Monday. Bowlers can also bowl on



Elena Soll, Carol McKenzie, Ron Cal, and Gloria Omechelang pose for a group photo during last month's Queen of the Lanes roll-off at the Saipan Bowling Center.

both days, but only the higher score will be counted.

Sunday's roll-offs will start at 4pm, while Monday's tournament will begin at 6pm. Entry fee is \$15 for adults and \$10 for youth.

After the December King and Queen roll-offs, SBA will have its season-ending events on Jan. 9 and 16. The Jan. 9 playdate is for the Queen of the Lanes, while the King of the Lanes is

set for Jan. 16.

All monthly winners and those included in the Bowlers Ranking System are qualified for the finale roll-offs.

The early qualifiers include Alex Castro (January and November winner), Jared Gutierrez (February), Raul Dumapin (March), Raphael Zapanta (April), Raymond Zapanta (May), Ruselle Zapanta (June), Robert Talavera (July

and September), Raymond Angeles (August), and Rusty Musca (October).

In the Queen of the Lanes, the month winners were Gina Sablan (January and September), Tess Sablan (February), Gloria Omechelang (March and August), Gigi Zapanta (April and October), Carol McKenzie (May and November), Elena Soll (June), and Ron Cal (July). (Roselyn B. Monroy)

## AG's Piligro, PSS Na'Gupu dispute finals tonight

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Second seed AG's Piligro of Buddies Bar & Grill will face sixth-ranked PSS Na'Gupu of Naked Fish Bar & Grill tonight in the championship round of the Inter-Government Second Bud Light Lime Cup.

The match is set at the Naked Fish and came about after AG's Piligro and PSS Na'Gupu vanquished separate rivals in the semis played last Dec. 10.

At Buddies Bar & Grill, visiting AG's Piligro defeated DYS Attit, 8-3. It started off well for the former as it swept both partners 501 games, won a pair of singles wild cricket matches, and swept both partners 701 matches.

AG's Piligro then and took a pair of singles baseball matches to secure the finals berth after 11 matches. The victors' Jayson John, Ton Celis, and Lionel Sanchez all won three out of three matches.

At USS Peleliu Club, visiting PSS Na'Gupu dominated NMC Proa, 8-2, to advance to the championship.

PSS Na'Gupu began by winning a partners 501 game. It then swept all four singles wild cricket matches before taking a partners open 701 game. It then won the first two singles contests to advance to the finals in dominating fashion. NMC Proa then conceded the match after PSS Na'Gupu won the eight games needed for an automatic team victory.

Last Dec. 3, AG's Piligro upset top-ranked CUC Power Plant, 8-3, in a home game, while PSS Na'Gupu knocked off sister team and seventh-ranked DPH Oh Yeah!, 8-5, on the road.

Then on Dec. 6, AG's Piligro knocked of the third place DPW Trouble Shooters, 8-6, on the road at Wild Bill's Bar & Grill on its path to last week's semifinals.

Notably, all teams played out a different set of game types during the post-season playoffs. Some of the usual games were included on the list in different order with the addition of some new games and variations such as partners regular cricket, singles baseball, singles wild cricket, and partners 701 Open Double In/Double Out.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS  
Players of Inter-Government Second Bud Light Lime Cup finalists AG's Piligro of Buddies Bar & Grill, above, and PSS Na'Gupu of Naked Fish Bar & Grill are all smiles in this file photo.

## Christmas in the Marianas Walk this Saturday

The annual Northern Marianas Christmas Walk in the Marianas will be held this Saturday, Dec. 18, beginning at 4pm.

The starting point for this year's walk will be the Southern Garden of the Hafadai Beach Hotel in Garapan. The walk will proceed north through Paseo de Marianas to the American Memorial Park pathway and continue to the end of the pathway near the Army Reserve base, and return to Hafadai Beach Hotel.

Registration is free and participants will be treated with Christmas treats while supplies last.

"We encourage everyone to come celebrate the holidays at the Christmas Walk in the Marianas this weekend," said Marianas Visitors Authority Community Projects manager Martin Duenas.

The event is spearheaded by Marianas Walking Association and supported by the Marianas Visitors Authority. (PR)





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# Saipan Tribune Sports



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Macaranas wins junior PGA majors

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

CNMI junior golfer R.J. Macaranas closed out the fall season with a bang after ruling the 2010 Bridgestone Fall Series Championship held early this month at the East Valley Champions Course in Beaumont, California.



The Long Beach-based Macaranas won his last tournament in the fall season via sudden-death playoff, surviving David Moon of Los Angeles. The 11-year-old junior golfer had a 7-foot par on playoff hole—No. 9—to win the tiebreaker against Moon, who muffed a 30-foot par putt.

Macaranas and Moon had to play one more hole after they shot identical scores of 2-under par 34 on the front nine.

"I was satisfied with my 2-under par 34, and thought it would be enough for a win at this tough course, the East Valley Champions Course, home of the PGA of Southern California," Mac-

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R.J. Macaranas shows the PGA plaque he won during the 2010 Bridgestone Fall Series Championship at the East Valley Champions Course in Beaumont, California, early this month.

## 3 schools crowned IFL champions

By WALTER SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

The Oleai Elementary School U12 girls, William S. Reyes Elementary School U12 boys, and Hopwood Junior High School U14 Girls All-Stars reigned supreme in their respective Marianas NMIFA Inter-Scholastic Football League final matches held at the Hopwood soccer field last Wednesday.

All three games were decided by penalty kicks.

In the first game of the afternoon, the OES U12 girls defeated the Koblerville El-

ementary School by penalty kicks, 2-0, after two scoreless 20-minute halves and a pair of 7 1/2-minute overtime periods.

Each team received five penalty kicks apiece. OES came out on top of an eight-team field comprised of community elementary schools.

After the U12 girls championship, the U12 WSR boys took the field and knocked off Dandan Elementary School, 2-0, in similar fashion.

Due to lack of light, the boy's game omitted the two overtime periods and went straight to penalty kicks, where

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WALTER SUTHERLAND

The William S. Reyes Elementary School boys soccer team defeated Dandan Elementary School on penalty kicks, 2-0, in Wednesday's NMIFA U12 boys championship match at the Hopwood Junior High School soccer field.



WALTER SUTHERLAND

The Hopwood Junior High School All-Stars defeated their sister team Strikers on penalty kicks, 2-1, in Wednesday's NMIFA U14 girls soccer championship match held at the Hopwood Junior High School soccer field.

## Kingz nears Rocball finals sweep

Kingz's Jason Limes leaps high for a kill during Game 2 of their title series against Yo Face in the 2010-2011 Rocball High School League yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Kingz moved a win away from clinching the championship in the 2010-2011 Rocball High School League after sweeping Game 2 of its finals series against Yo Face yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Kingz won all three sets of Game 2 of its best-of-three title series against Yo Face, 47-28, dominating the latter in the first two sets and showing poise in the third set.

In the first set, Kingz and Yo Face started slow and were tied at 4-all, before the former broke away behind Jason Limes. Limes hit powerful kees in the opening set en route to a 16-10 victory.

In the second set, Kingz struggled anew in the early part of the game, failing to score

more than three points on two occasions. However, Limes found his rhythm anew, leaping-high for a couple of kills to lift Kingz to a 16-8 victory.

After two sets, Kings went ahead, 32-18, and Yo Face was pressed to win the third set to send the game into overtime.

At the beginning of the third set, it looked like Yo Face was on the road to recovery when Y.J. Nakayama leaped from the backline and connected on a goal, catching Kingz' Damart Teregeyo off guard. Nakayama was awarded three points and Yo Face led, 5-2.

However, Kingz worked its way back into the game with Limes taking care of business from the backline and the rest of his teammates hustling for the ball for the squad's juiced-out win, 15-10.

Limes was the game's heavy hitter, tallying 12 points off one ace, two kees, and two goals.

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## UBA men's league draws seven teams

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Seven teams had already confirmed their participation in the 2nd Unified Basketball Association Men's League that will kick off in January next year.

The list includes defending champion Prospects, Mobil, IP&E Konflikt, Hoopaholics, Ol'Aces, NMC Proa, and Satbahi.

"There are other teams that have called in and inquired

about the league, but have not confirmed or pick up any forms yet. We are looking at a maximum of eight teams for this upcoming league given that every team have recruited the best of the best for their rosters and this limits others to form a team," UBA president James Lee said.

Lee added they are hoping to open shop on Jan. 10 with games to be played at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, instead of the outdoor Garapan Basketball

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